THE TIMES

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Fantasy Football League: How did your team get on? Page 46

Storm over advice to teenage mothers

'Give babies for adoption' call by Straw

By Alexandra Frean, Social Affairs Correspondent

JACK STRAW was at the centre of a storm last night after saying that more teenage mothers should give up their babies for adoption.

The Home Secretary blamed "well-meaning but misguided" social workers for over-estimating the ability of many young women to cope with the financial and emotional burdens of motherhood.

As a result, too many infants ended up being taken into council care and kept in "a state of limbo" until a suitable home could be found for them with foster carers or adopters.

Mr Straw told a conference organised by the Family Policy Studies Centre: "It is in no one's interests, not the mother's, not the child's, nor the prospective parents', to allow a situation to develop whereby a crisis point is reached in the baby's first year because the ability of the mother, often a teenager mother, to cope has been misjudged by well-meaning but misguided people."

While not actually proposing a return to the practice of coercing unmarried young women into having their baby adopted, Mr Straw said that such a decision often resulted in a better life for the child. "If you get to a situation where young mothers feel happy about adoption that's so much the better. It is better if these adoptions are done voluntarily than if the children are later taken into care," he said.

Mr Straw said that he had been surprised to discover that there were as many as 3,500 children aged under two in council care, while many childless couples wanting to adopt were kept waiting for years. The Government had issued new guidance to remove unnecessary barriers to adoption, he said, but added: "It is still a sad fact that many suitable couples have been on waiting lists far too long, while children have remained in care."

"I'm not the baby, I'm the mother"

It had become "a matter of fashion" to move away from adoption, he said. In 1968, there were nearly 25,000 adoptions compared with fewer than 6,000 a year now.

Mr Straw's comments were, however, immediately attacked by adoption workers. Pam Hodgkins, manager of the West Midlands Post Adoption Services, said that removing a baby from its mother could be extremely damaging for both parent and child. Adoption was nearly always the second best option for a child, while women who gave up their children in the 60s experienced health problems and mental illness.

Felicity Collier, director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, said that more than 70 per cent of children in care returned to their natural families within a year. "We need to encourage support for all mothers, whatever their situation."

Chris Davies, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, rejected the Home Secretary's criticism of social workers, but conceded that more could be done to speed up the adoption process. "The reason there are very few babies now offered for adoption is not because social workers discourage it, but because nowadays most mothers in this situation never see a social worker at all," he said.

Veronica Agius, who was forced to give her illegitimate daughter away for adoption 33 years ago, said: "I think about it every day. I have never had any other children, and my daughter says she is not ready to make contact with me. It is my deepest regret."

But Sheila Walker, 59, who gave up her baby son for adoption in 1959, said that it had been the best decision for both of them. "I am glad I made that sacrifice for him."

Trying to help, page 7

Carla Germaine and Greg Cordell after their blind date wedding yesterday

Blind date couple meet on their wedding day

By Peter Foster

IT WAS billed as a "scientific experiment in love" and yesterday, after an intimate ceremony attended only by close family, friends and a national television company, the guinea pigs in Britain's first "blind" wedding were declared man and wife.

Carla Germaine, 23, a model, and Greg Cordell, 28, a sales manager, met for the first time and were married at 1pm yesterday after winning a competition called "Two Strangers and a Wedding", organised by a Birmingham commercial radio station.

Lest they forget who brought them together, the moment of union was sealed by rings engraved with the station's logo: "96.4FM BRMB".

For the marketing men it was a marriage made in heaven — half the world's press were present as the nervous couple paraded before the cameras for their first taste of a new life destined to be played out under the uncompromising gaze of the British media.

After spending their first night together in the £750 Chamberlain Suite at Birmingham's Hyatt hotel, they will jet off for a honeymoon in the Bahamas — with a tabloid newspaper reporter and a fly-on-the-wall documentary team in tow. On their return they will receive a new Ford sports car for a year, and the run of a £1,500-a-month apartment in Birmingham's recently renovated canal land. But at midnight on January 25, 2000, they must return the keys and find a new home.

The newlyweds, who have signed a pre-nuptial agreement in case things do not work out, were yesterday quick to scotch suggestions that the wedding was more an exercise in media manipulation than love. "Everyone's expecting us to split up," Mr Cordell said, "but we're going to prove them wrong."

His new wife agreed: "Everyone has their own opinion but we're looking forward to getting to know each other. I know what I like and I'm very pleased and happy. I told them from day one what I was looking for and this is very good." When asked if they were going to consummate the union last night, she said: "You'll never know."

The public will have little difficulty keeping up with the Cordell's progress. As well as a documentary on Channel 4 and regular radio updates on BRMB, they have already been invited on the David Letterman Show in New York.

While church leaders and marriage guidance organisations protested that the serious business of marriage was being turned into a media circus, BRMB ran trailers for the "Wedding of the Decade" and promised to broadcast the ceremony live. However, the registrar drew the line at sharing it with 700,000 listeners.

Mike Owen, BRMB's head of publicity, defended the wedding as a "a serious matrimonial exercise". He said: "We shall be giving Greg and Carla all the support they need. We want the marriage to last as long as possible. They were selected very carefully as the couple most likely to be compatible from the 200 entries we received."

Mr Owen said the station would probably pay for any future divorce proceedings.

Hussein chooses his eldest son

King Hussein of Jordan confirmed by royal decree that his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, 36, is his heir, not the King's son, Prince Hamzah, or the King's brother, Prince Hassan, who had been Crown Prince for 34 years ...Page 13

Athlete fails test

A British athlete has failed a dope test. A UK Athletics spokeswoman said that for legal reasons she could not give the name, the gender or the substance involved ...Page 52

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I'm sorry about the little girls — kidnap case man

By Adrian Lee

A MAN accused of kidnapping and seriously assaulting two schoolgirls said yesterday that he was sorry for what had happened to them and wished that he could turn back the clock.

Alan Hopkinson, 45, of Langney, Eastbourne, made the statement through his solicitor after appearing at Hastings Magistrates' Court in East Sussex.

He was charged with ten offences: two each of child abduction, kidnapping and false imprisonment and four relating to serious assaults. The court was told that the girls, both aged ten, could not be named.

The former Rhodesian Army soldier and Bank of England worker said nothing during his five-minute appearance. He stared intently at the floor and nodded only to confirm his name and that he understood the terms of his remand. No application was made for bail and he was remanded in custody for a week. He was also granted legal aid.

After the hearing, Mr Hopkinson's solicitor, Graeme White, made a statement from the steps of the court, saying: "He has asked me to say he is sorry for what happened to the little girls. I hasten to say that no specific admissions are being made. He does hope that they can put matters behind them, given the passage of time, and he has asked me to say that he does wish that he could put the clock back. He wishes to express his remorse."

Graeme White, solicitor

Mr White said that his client, who was arrested on Friday, was "depressed and upset" and had been prescribed sleeping tablets. "Obviously it had been a great shock to him to be brought to the police station and held for several days."

Mr Hopkinson, who wore grey trousers and a light grey jacket over a blue pullover, was brought to court from the neighbouring police station through an underground tunnel. Two police officers and two security guards were also in the packed courtroom. An order was made that no picture of Mr Hopkinson should be published.

Bid to end Clinton trial quashed

From Bronwen Maddox in Washington

LEADING Republicans yesterday quashed a new attempt to complete President Clinton's trial this week, in a day of plots and accusations that left the impeachment process in chaos.

Trent Lott, the Senate Republican Majority Leader, poured cold water on a bipartisan plan for a "yes or no" vote by Friday on the two articles of impeachment that would have avoided calling witnesses. Although he appeared to have been swayed by House conservatives, however, many of his colleagues admitted that they dearly wanted an early end to the saga, which is exasperating Americans.

The plan, put forward by Tom Daschle, the leader of the Senate Democrats, would have left open the option of a vote to censure the President. Its failure has left both parties searching for a solution, terrified that the process will become uncontrollable if witnesses are called to the Senate floor.

If Monica Lewinsky is called, the nation will be treated to the unpalatable sight of elderly men questioning a troubled young woman about the already well-chronicled details of her sex life. They also fear that if she is called, they will have to summon everyone mentioned in her testimony.

While floundering in the quagmire of the witness question, Congress had the benefit of a new round of observations by Dick Morris, Mr Clinton's former adviser, who himself resigned over a sex scandal. Mr Clinton was "delusional", he said, in feeling victimised when the Lewinsky scandal first erupted, but certainly believed his own line that he had not had sex with the young trainee.

Leading lady, page 15

Golfer's amazing 59 sinks the competition

From Mel Webb

IT WAS, in its way, like six sixes in an over to win a cricket match, a maximum 147 in the final frame to claim a victory on the snooker table, or breaking a world record to win a gold medal in the 1,500 metres in the Olympic Games.

What David Duval, the American golfer, achieved was nothing less than a slice of sporting immortality.

A score of 59 in golf is a mystical figure, a barrier that goes beyond the psychological. Like its counterparts in other sports, it requires high skill. Unlike them, it calls for that skill to be exercised — and concentration maintained — for upwards of five hours. A 59 needs par figures to be beaten for up to 13 times in 18 holes; club golfers everywhere will know that for the merely mortal, one birdie a round is cause for celebration.

The feat has never been achieved in European professional golf and until Sunday had occurred only twice in America — on neither occasion on the final day of the tournament.

Duval did not only score 59 to win: he needed to score 59 to win.

The undemonstrative Duval, 27, started the final day of the Bob Hope Classic, at La Quinta Golf Club, in California, six shots behind the leader and seemingly out of the picture.

A quiet but grimly determined performer, he had calculated overnight that he might need 59 to claim his second win of the season. Confident performer though he is, he cannot truly have expected to do so.

In the end, Duval, who has been one of the most in-form golfers in the world for the last 14 months, during which time he has won six times, took the title by one shot. With this victory he boosted his earnings by $540,000 (£328,000) and took his earnings this year to $1,008,000. Pity the man who finished second. He only had a 66.

Shot-by-shot, page 50

Duval: has won $1m in 99

Familiar old words mark passing of the age of consent

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Many go into law or Parliament solely so that they can say "buggery" whenever they like, and before the Nine o'Clock Watershed. This sketch lost count yesterday of how often the Home Secretary said it: but as Jack Straw said "buggery" for the fifth time, I sensed an astonishing lack of interest.

Every now and then, an issue dies in the Commons. No death is announced, no obituary placed in *The Times*; indeed there is no corpse to bury. The death is more subtle. One day you go into the Chamber and an issue is alive and kicking. Two opposing sides, confident of their cause, clash. Sparks fly.

Some months later you return to the same debate . . . and life has ebbed away. The arguments may be unchanged, but one side, now, is only going through the motions. They've given up. Nobody is so vulgar as to crow, but the winners and losers know who they are.

As a Parliamentary controversy, Age of Consent is dead. The dogs may bark but the circus has moved on. The concessions contained in the Sexual Offences Bill launched by the Home Secretary yesterday — measures to protect the vulnerable from those in charge of them — have swung it for reform. Once swung, the dead weight of "commonsense" opinion among politicians is mighty hard to swing back.

How do we know that Age of Consent has died? MPs sense such things through their pores. Ask not what they are saying — everyone always says the same thing — but how they are saying it, and who is talking. To know the wind, focus not on Members who can change the wind, but those who are changed by the wind. Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassetlaw) is as persuasive a windsock as you will find at Westminster.

If a tabloid newspaper could speak, it would talk like Joe Ashton. To get his measure, ponder the phrase "rightminded folk". It is one of Mr Ashton's favourites. In the 1980s, rightminded folk were not campaigning to reduce the age of consent from 21. Nor was Mr Ashton. In 1994, rightminded folk could more or less stomach a reduction to 18. So could Mr Ashton. Last year, rightminded folk remained worried about the corruption of the young and opposed 16. So did Mr Ashton.

Now, rightminded folk grit their teeth and accept "equality" so long as there is statutory protection for those at school or in institutions. Mr Ashton has urged just such a measure. It is in the Bill. And Ashton now supports the Bill.

He told MPs so yesterday. "I'd like to thank the *Daily Mail* and the *Express*," he repeated, proceeding to read out an armful of newspaper clippings about paedophiles and their vile rings, "tuning in" to the Internet. Shocking. But the shock was routine.

Only one speech caught fire. It is not often a quiet backbencher can hold the whole House for twenty minutes with a speech as reasoned as it is heartfelt. Shaun Woodward (C) has sometimes seemed a bland successor to Douglas Hurd as MP for Witney. Yesterday, supporting the Bill against the predominant opinion of his own side, he emerged as a noble one.

Otherwise there was little to raise a cheer, an eyebrow or even a smile. Gerald Howarth (C, Aldershot), trying for the cheer, achieved the smile. "You simply cannot have it both ways!" he cried, opposing the Bill. Can't you? Some of his colleagues have proved otherwise.

MP compares gay laws to slave shame

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

A TORY MP last night compared equalising the age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual sex to giving women the vote.

Supporting the latest move to reduce the age of consent for homosexual sex to 16, Shaun Woodward (Witney) told the Commons: "I believe that historians will look back on this period of discrimination against young people with the same opprobrium that we now look back on those who sought to justify the slave trade."

Mr Woodward, a director of the charity Childline, said the issue was about "whether a relationship between on human being and another should be a criminal act. This is not about urging young people to be promiscuous. It is not about anal intercourse. It is a debate about whether society should consider these people to be criminals at 16 just because of their sexuality."

He added: "As a Conservative, I believe in freedom and the rule of law. Why should the law intervene in the private affairs of citizens when it does no harm to others?"

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill will equalise the age of consent at 16 in England, Scotland and Wales, and 17 in Northern Ireland. It will also make it illegal for anyone over 18 to have sex with a 16 or 17-year-old over whom they are in a position of trust.

The protection was proposed by the Government after fears were expressed when the issue was last debated. The measures would protect those in full-time education, residential care, foster homes and secure accommodation, and hospitals. Those found guilty of the new offence could face two years in jail. Codes of conduct would protect the young in areas of the voluntary sector not covered by the Bill.

The measure is expected to pass easily through the Commons but to face fierce opposition in the Lords. The last attempt to cut the age of legal homosexual sex, through an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill last June, was backed by the Commons by a 207 majority. The Lords defeated it by a majority of 168 after concerns were voiced about putting vulnerable young people at greater risk.

Opening the Second Reading debate, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said the age of consent must be equalised because the discrimination was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. "This is not a question of encouraging one lifestyle as against another or of encouraging young people to have sex," he said. "It is a question of equality before the law."

Mr Straw said the new "abuse of trust" offence was designed to protect the most vulnerable young people from adults where the relationship of trust was most strong.

Some MPs, including Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea East), protested that the protective measures in the Bill did not go far enough and should include those looking after Scouts and Guides and holiday camps. "Why are you so timid and limited on this?" Mr Anderson asked Mr Straw.

Stuart Bell (Lab, Middlesbrough) asked Mr Straw to confirm that the Government did not plan to cut the age of consent to 14 or legalise homosexual marriages. Mr Straw replied: "We have no plans to bring forward legislation in respect to any of these issues."

Sir Norman Fowler, Shadow Home Secretary, said people did not take a prejudiced view of the issue but had concerns about whether the young might be at risk: "The majority would prefer this change not to be made. We should listen to the public and not move further to reduce the age of consent."

WILLIAM CHERRY

Mairead Kelly, speaking for the relatives of dead IRA members, after meeting Adam Ingram at Stormont yesterday

Beatings may prompt sanctions

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE Government hinted at sanctions yesterday unless Northern Ireland's wave of punishment attacks were ended.

At meetings with the political representatives of the three main paramilitary groups, Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, demanded the "atrocious, barbaric" attacks be halted. "There were suggestions about what she could do in the future if she so chose," David Ervine, of the Progressive Unionist Party, acknowledged afterwards.

The Government is facing intense pressure to suspend terrorist prisoner releases until the attacks stop. The Tories have called a Commons debate on the issue tomorrow and two senior Labour backbenchers, Harry Barnes and Frank Field, yesterday tabled a Commons motion saying the releases should be slowed "as a political sanction against an . . . organised regime of increasingly brutal intimidation".

Dr Mowlam said she would review the situation in a week or two if the attacks continued, but Tony Blair has admitted that halting prisoner releases could bring down the Good Friday peace accord.

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness refused to meet Dr Mowlam, claiming she had changed the original purpose of the meeting, and sent more junior members of Sinn Fein instead. Mr McGuinness said his party deplored "punishment attacks", but blamed the lack of a police service that nationalists could trust.

Mr Ervine, whose party represents the Ulster Volunteer Force, called the attacks "immoral and reprehensible" and urged people to report problems to the police.

The human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror accused republican and loyalist paramilitaries of 37 beatings and shootings this month alone. Government officials suspect Sinn Fein and the loyalist parties can tone down paramilitary violence when it suits them.

Relatives of IRA victims angrily confronted the families of eight IRA men killed on a bombing mission yesterday. The republican families were leaving Stormont after a meeting with Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, when the victims' relatives cried "shame" and "apologise" and held up posters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

20-year-old death case: OAP held

A pensioner has been arrested in connection with the murder of an unknown woman who was bludgeoned to death nearly 20 years ago, after DNA testing led to the reopening of the case.

Detectives from Kent travelled to the north of England yesterday in a renewed effort to establish the identity of the young woman, thought to be a hitchhiker or prostitute, whose body was found in Bedgebury Forest, near Goudhurst, in October 1979.

The case was re-opened in October last year after forensic tests were carried out on evidence stored since the 1979 inquiry. Two weeks ago a Kent lorry driver in his early seventies was arrested in connection with the murder and released on police bail.

Helicopter base

A new joint service helicopter command will be based at Wilton in Wiltshire, the Ministry of Defence announced yesterday. The headquarters of the combined RAF, Army and Navy unit will control more than 350 helicopters at 10 air bases. It will have around 12,000 personnel and oversee a budget of £300 million.

Fee protest ends

Five Oxford students who were barred from university premises for refusing to pay their tuition fees said yesterday that they had decided to end their protest. Academics voted last week to suspend the four Somerville undergraduates and one from St Hilda's unless they ended their protest immediately.

Uniform reverse

A university has dropped plans to charge student nurses £100 each for the uniforms they must wear while training, after complaints from Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. Kingston-upon-Thames University intended that 100 trainees should buy them out of their £5,300 annual bursary for living costs.

Collymore case

Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa footballer, admitted speeding at 82mph in a 40mph zone. He did not attend Birmingham Magistrates' Court because he was in club talks about his future. The bench is considering a driving ban and adjourned the hearing until February 8 for Collymore to attend. Under stress, page 49

Delayed justice

William Geary, 100 next month, was fired from Irish police after allegedly accepting a £100 bribe from the IRA over 70 years ago. After persistently lobbying successive governments for a review of his case, it has now been referred to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform by the Prime Minister.

Pensions left £1bn short by computer troubles

By Dominic Kennedy

THE Government is sitting on nearly £1 billion which it has failed to pay into private and occupational pension schemes because of the bungled launch of a new computer system.

The problems with Europe's largest civilian computer system, which cost £140 million, are also forcing benefits to be calculated by guesswork for more than a million claimants, including pensioners, widows, unemployed and sick people.

The 160,000 new pensioners so far affected are losing an average £1.30 a week, although some are losing as much as £100 a week. Fewer than 15 per cent of Britons who invest in private or occupational pensions have had contributions paid promptly by the Department of Social Security.

When the computer crisis is resolved and the payments are finally made, savers will be offered compensation by the Government at an interest rate of 6 per cent a year. Pension companies argue that customers with schemes that invest in the stock market could have achieved a much better rate of interest and will have no chance to make up the difference.

Quentin Davies, Conservative social security spokesman, said: "Just paying the rebate with interest is not satisfactory. People must be put back in the position they would be in if the Government had not made these mistakes."

The Contributions Agency has said that it will only pay compensation to people owed £100 or more. "This is grossly unfair," said David Rendel, Liberal Democrat social security spokesman. "For people who are living on or near the breadline, even a few pounds a week makes all the difference."

The National Audit Office said the computer system had 1,900 problems, of which 1,589 had been unresolved. The computer switch began last July after three years' preparation. The supplier, Andersen Consulting, worked through the Christmas holiday with Contributions Agency staff in Newcastle upon Tyne but failed to clear the backlog. Andersen Consulting has paid £3.7 million compensation to the DSS.

Those with most to lose are new claimants, including people reaching pensionable age, becoming unemployed or widowed. Already 1.2 million people on jobseeker's allowance, 374,000 on incapacity benefit and 25,000 widows are affected. They cannot be sure of receiving the correct amount because their benefits are calculated on the basis of national insurance paid, and many of those payments are not yet on the computer.

The Government had been warned against introducing the new National Insurance Recording Computer System (NIRS2) at the same time as reforming pensions.

Stephen Timms, a Social Security Minister, said: "It will take until the end of this financial year to resume normal operations, and it will take longer to catch up on all backlogs."

ITV has good news for Bond

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

JAMES BOND will be among the first to benefit from the demise of *News At Ten*. ITV confirmed yesterday that the last of its full 10pm bulletins would go out on Friday, March 5. The first uninterrupted film to be screened across its slot will be the 007 adventure *GoldenEye*.

Executives also promised that comedy, factual programmes, drama and a new current-affairs programme with Trevor McDonald would fill the vacant airtime to try to increase ITV's audience share.

Feature-length dramas such as *Kavanagh QC* will get late peaktime slots, and at 10.30pm there will be new comedies, such as the forthcoming 1970s teen show *Days Like These*. *GoldenEye* will be screened on March 10.

ITV halted its audience decline last year and this year it would try to reverse it, chief executive Richard Eyre told advertisers yesterday. The huge success of quiz show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* helped ITV to push its 1998 audience share to 37.9 per cent. Its 1999 target is 39 per cent.

Entertainment formats will be piloted to try to repeat the success of *TV Nightmares*, *Man O Man*, *Give Your Mate a Break* and *Truth or Consequences*, all of which get series this year. Mr Eyre said: "However great we make ITV, I don't think it is reasonable to imagine we can make it so fabulous that people decide not to go multi-channel."

Watchdog to lift lid on MPs' gifts

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

MPs would be forced to declare all gifts, loans and hospitality from fellow members of Parliament under a new interpretation of rules by the incoming Parliamentary Commissioner.

Elizabeth Filkin made clear yesterday that she believes a 25-year-old understanding of the interests MPs have to publish should be overhauled following the Peter Mandelson home loan affair. If accepted by the Commons, the change would lift the lid for the first time on gifts and hospitality, including the loan of holiday homes, between MPs.

The proposal would cover gifts to an MP or their spouse from another MP of more than £125, as well as other benefits worth more than £225. It is likely to alarm some MPs who regard such deals as private affairs.

However, in her first public comments since Mr Mandelson resigned from government following the revelation of his £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster-General, Ms Filkin said that all arrangements between MPs should be declared in the interests of transparency.

Mr Mandelson registered his loan on her advice, but Ms Filkin, who takes over from Sir Gordon Downey next month, made clear she had not cleared him. She is still to report to the Commons Standards and Privileges Select Committee on whether she believes he should be censured.

Yemen wants to try London cleric

Daniel McGrory and Stephen Farrell on Sanaa's frustration over Britain's perceived inaction

YEMEN yesterday asked Britain to extradite the extremist Muslim cleric Sheikh Abu Hamza al Masri, whom it accuses of masterminding the kidnap of 16 Western tourists last month. Security chiefs in the capital Sanaa say that the controversial London-based religious leader is also behind a plot to blow up British targets in Aden.

The demand comes just days before five British Muslims are put on trial for their lives, accused of being behind the foiled Christmas Day plot.

At least three of the Britons are said to have confessed that they were sent to Yemen by Sheikh Hamza, who preaches at the Finsbury Park mosque in North London.

The Egyptian-born cleric, who lost both his hands in Afghanistan, is also leader of the Supporters of Shariah group, which advocates the rule of Islamic law and whose Internet web page offered military training and depicted a hand grenade.

Security sources in Yemen say he ordered the British Muslims to contact Abu Hassan, leader of the December 28 kidnap which led to the deaths of three British tourists and an Australian, and received a satellite telephone call from Hassan during the abduction. In their confessions the men say Sheikh Hamza gave them $2,000 (£1,250) to pay Abu Hassan for the weapons and their training at his terrorist base.

A security source in Sanaa said last night: "We believe Hamza is the mastermind behind both these terrorist operations. As the British police do not seem to be taking action against him we want to see him put on trial here." They claim to have "irrefutable evidence" linking Sheikh Hamza to the kidnap and the bomb plot. Scotland Yard is still investigating Hamza's alleged involvement.

Yesterday, Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni President, gave Vic Henderson, the British Ambassador, a message for Tony Blair, asking that Sheikh Hamza be handed over. The official news agency SABA said the letter called for Shekih Hamza's extradition "for committing acts of terrorism and sabotage in Yemen and in a number of Arab countries".

The agency added: "The letter expresses the discontent of the Yemeni Government with the terrorist activities led by the terrorist Abu Hamza al Masri and other people from British territory."

Sheikh Hamza last night dismissed the extradition request, saying he would not receive a fair trial, criticised Yemen's human rights record and claimed the arrested Britons were tortured into making their confessions.

He insisted he had no involvement with terrorism in Yemen and claimed the same rights to freedom of speech as Salman Rushdie, pointing out that the author was granted protection when he caused offence to Muslims with *The Satanic Verses*. "If you are talking about the truth as terrorism I cannot deny that, but if you class sending people for terrorist activities then I had nothing to do with it," he said.

"Salman Rushdie's words sicken your heart and my words are ugly in your ears, but my words are the truth and his are false."

Although Yemen has no extradition agreement with Britain, the Home Office said last night that an ad hoc request would be considered in the same way as any other. However, a spokesman refused to discuss whether an application had been received, saying "we neither confirm nor deny extradition requests".

Among those arrested in Aden were Sheikh Hamza's stepson, Mohsen Ghailan, and an Algerian who is engaged to his sister. His 17-year-son, Mohamed Kamal Mustapha, is still on the run.

The men's lawyer, Salim Basunaid, will complain about their treatment when they appear in court tomorrow. Their appearance in court comes after pressure from Whitehall for the Prosecutor General in Yemen to speed up their trial.

MARTIN GOODWIN

Sheikh Hamza outside the American Embassy in London in August after US aircraft bombed sites in Sudan

£50 watch helped thieves steal cars worth £350,000

By Michael Harvey

A THIEF used a wristwatch to steal dozens of luxury cars after discovering it could unlock doors and switch off alarms, a court was told yesterday.

Sajjad Aslam used the £50 Casio watch, a programmable remote control for television sets and video recorders, to crack the codes on car key fobs. After programming the infra-red frequencies into his watch during test drives at car showrooms, he sent accomplices to steal the vehicles.

Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester was told that Aslam, 29, masterminded a lucrative car-ringing racket for two years. He and his gang gave the stolen cars new identities and sold them through agents across Britain.

Previous owners' names in the false registration documents included the snooker star Steve Davis, the cricketer Wasim Akram and Alexander O'Neal, the soul singer. Police believe vehicles worth at least £350,000 were stolen, doctored and sold on. Makes included Mitsubishi Shogun, Toyota, Nissan and Rover.

Yesterday Aslam, from Stockport, was sentenced to four and a half years in jail after pleading guilty to masterminding the racket. Six accomplice admitted conspiracy to steal and were jailed for periods ranging from nine months to two years.

The racket was discovered when police arrested one of the accomplices, Biny Amim, 32. He refused to take off his watch and suspicious officers sent it for testing: experts found the car codes.

Detective Constable Ian O'Connell, who led the inquiry, said watches like the CMD40 could be bought in any High Street. "These watches may be the sort of hi-tech items that 007 gets from Q in the James Bond movies but the fact is that they are very real and millions of cars are at risk of being stolen."

He added: "I have worked on car crime for eight years and have never seen anything like this."

A spokeswoman for Casio insisted the CMD40 could not be used to "grab" infra-red codes without the key owner's knowledge because the watch had to be placed within a few centimetres of the key fob. "We feel satisfied that the CMD40 presents no increased ability for car thieves," she said.

However, the AA said several million cars, mostly built before 1995, were potential victims to programmable remote controls.

Judge criticises parents for protecting paedophile head

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A JUDGE accused parents at a leading preparatory school yesterday of ignoring signs that the headmaster was a "fixated paedophile" because their main interest was the school's academic results, and some were enjoying fee discounts.

They rejected a "wealth of evidence", said Judge John Wroath, who chaired an Independent Schools Tribunal into 13 complaints against Robin Lindsay, the headmaster and proprietor of Sherborne Preparatory School in Dorset. The three-strong panel unanimously ordered that Mr Lindsay, who resigned last June, should be barred from holding any school post.

The tribunal criticised the Department for Education and Employment and Mr Lindsay's professional association for failing to take action more quickly. The first investigation into allegations of "inappropriate behaviour" took place in 1985 but an official notice of complaint was not served until last year.

The judge's most serious criticism was directed at the parents, who were said to have obstructed successive police and social services inquiries. Many continue to support Mr Lindsay, in spite of "serious and numerous concerns" expressed by inspectors, and consider traits such as walking around the school in pyjamas and an obsessive interest in boys' physical development as merely eccentric.

Judge Wroath said: "The parents choose to ignore the wealth of evidence as to the appellant's unacceptable behaviour and grave shortcomings and cling to the perception that he was no more than eccentric.

"Furthermore, in many cases they did not want to look too closely. The school was achieving the academic successes the parents were looking for and a number of them were enjoying substantial reductions in fees."

In Mr Lindsay's final year Sherborne had 41 boarders, whose fees were more than £8,000 a year, and 101 day pupils. Mr Lindsay, who is now 70 and was headmaster for 26 years, withdrew his appeal against disqualification, waiving his right to contest the allegations. The complaints included charges of maladministration and regular lateness or absence from lessons.

The tribunal found that there was insufficient evidence to uphold three complaints of sexual assault made by former pupils. It did, however, accept the view of a forensic psychiatrist that Mr Lindsay was a "fixated paedophile".

Bee Greene, who had two children at the school between 1981 and 1986, said: "The judge's comments are infuriating. How dare he suggest that we turned a blind eye?"

Pupil and teacher 'had sex at school'

By Adam Fresco

A WOMAN told yesterday how she became lovers with her history teacher when she was a "besotted" 14-year-old. The former pupil, now 28, said that she and Daniel Angadi had sex on school premises and that he took topless pictures of her when she was a pupil at an independent girls' school in London. "I was desperately in love," she said.

Twice-married Mr Angadi, from Leytonstone, East London, denies five charges of indecent assault in 1985 and 1986. Susan Tapping, for the prosecution, said that although the charges were indecent assault they involved full intercourse.

The former pupil told Southwark Crown Court that the relationship developed after a school play which was written by Mr Angadi. Her mother, a single parent, was concerned about her progress at school and encouraged her to get extra help from Mr Angadi.

He became a close friend of her and her mother before the start of the sexual relationship, which ended in 1990. The woman said that she blurted out what had happened between the two of them to her former English teacher at a school function last year.

Under cross-examination she admitted that she had felt "jealousy and rage" when she learnt that Mr Angadi had started an affair with another woman while she was at university. She denied that she had made the allegations only because she was upset to learn at the function that he was happily married.

Mr Angadi says that the sexual relationship began only after she had left school.

The trial continues.

Ex-soldier puts the boot in for army footwear

By Susie Steiner and Elizabeth Judge

A FORMER soldier is demanding compensation from the Ministry of Defence because he says that training in heavy combat boots caused permanent disability in his legs.

Christopher Hossack, 32, accused the MoD yesterday of negligence in letting him wear the boots for long-distance running. He says he was medically discharged from the Army and unable to earn a living.

The MoD, which contests the claim, told the High Court that Mr Hossack's problem was caused by flat feet.

Michael Curwen, for Mr Hossack, said: "Mr Hossack's case about the boot is not that it was entirely unsuitable for army use but simply it was not appropriate for as much running as he was required to do in it."

Mr Hossack, from Sunderland, joined the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers in 1985 and took part in military training that involved running on Tarmac. He says he experienced pain in his ankles within a few weeks but put it down to his boots being new. Five months later he was given the highest fitness ranking possible and in 1988 was asked to join the battalion boxing team, which increased the intensity of his training. After an operation in 1993 Mr Hossack was discharged in September 1994. He worked for a while as a lorry driver but has lived on incapacity benefit since 1997.

Mr Curwen said: "Mr Hossack has a crippling condition. He can't run at all, can't walk for more than a couple of hundred yards before feeling pain and he can't stand on his feet for any length of time."

He admitted his client suffered from flat feet. "We say that may have contributed to the problem but was not the source of the trouble."

Mr Hossack is suing the MoD for £400,000. The case continues.

Hossack: told court he is unable to earn a living

Hitting circus animals does them no harm, says Chipperfield

Ms Chipperfield: denied cruelty to a chimpanzee

By Helen Johnstone

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, a prominent member of the world-famous circus family, yesterday told a court that kicking and hitting animals was not cruel.

Ms Chipperfield, seeking to justify hitting a crying baby chimpanzee because it refused to go to bed, said that inflicting pain did not necessarily harm animals. Ms Chipperfield, 61, denies 21 charges relating to animal cruelty and neglect, and said that she would do the same again.

Ms Chipperfield told Andover Magistrates' Court that she "really cared" about animals, but that kicking a dog that was lying in the way or a chimpanzee that would not do as she wanted was acceptable.

Her husband, Roger Cawley, 64, a government zoo inspector, admitted flouting the rules he was appointed to enforce. Mr Cawley, who denies seven charges of cruelty and neglect, admitted under cross-examination that elephants at his farm had been shackled for 24 hours a day on several occasions.

Mr Cawley said that he had had the elephants shackled because "we were having staff problems and we didn't want to make staff work extra-long hours on Christmas Day".

"I didn't think leaving them shackled would cause them unnecessary suffering," he said.

Both Ms Chipperfield, who appeared in court under her married name, Mary Cawley, and her husband admitted knowing that one of their keepers, who was recently sentenced to four months' imprisonment for cruelty to elephants, had previously been imprisoned for manslaughter.

Earlier, in evidence at the start of the second week of the trial, Ms Chipperfield said a change in the public perception of circuses had prompted her father, Jimmy, to reconsider what was good for animals and promote the freer environment of wildlife parks by introducing the concept at Longleat in Wiltshire.

Ms Chipperfield told the court that she now did little animal training, concentrating instead on animal dealing. She said that during her career she had worked with more than 60 keepers, and that the thing they had complained about most was the harsh way she treated people.

Asked about her approach to the welfare of animals in her charge, Ms Chipperfield said she had bottle-fed chimpanzees, lions, tigers and hippopotami in her home. She said that she had personally fed Trudi, the chimpanzee she is accused of treating cruelly, hourly after it was nearly killed by an adult chimpanzee.

Trudi was later transferred to a cage where, Ms Chipperfield admitted, it spent 15 hours overnight in a darkened box.

Ms Chipperfield said that by the time chimpanzees were a year old, they had developed fangs, and that both she and her daughter had permanent scars after being bitten by them in the past.

Ms Chipperfield, who brought to court the sticks and whips she was seen using on several animals in a secretly filmed video, said that she suffered from arthritis and could not use much force when wielding them. She admitted hitting the chimpanzee after it bit her finger.

"I gave her a couple of sharp ones. She would have felt them but they could not possibly have harmed her," she said. Asked to elaborate, she said that it was all right to cause pain when it did not do harm.

Charles Gabb, for the prosecution, told her: "You are master of all the animals in your kingdom. They will do as you say when you say. If they don't they will be beaten."

Ms Chipperfield replied: "Not beaten." Asked how she would describe their treatment, she replied: "Touched." The trial continues.

Police concede fire death was racist attack

Stewart Tendler on a case first treated as suicide

Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve appeals for witnesses to the murder two years ago of Michael Menson, supported at Scotland Yard by, left to right, Sam, Essie, Kwesi and Chris Menson

MICHAEL MENSON, the black musician who died after being found on fire in the street two years ago, was the victim of a racist gang linked to a series of such attacks, police said yesterday. They had originally treated his death as suicide.

John Grieve, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner heading Scotland Yard's Race and Violence Crime Task Force, said detectives were hunting three or four attackers involved in setting fire to Mr Menson in Edmonton, North London. He appealed to any of them who might have stood back or been appalled by the attack and not taken part to come forward.

Mr Menson, a 30-year-old rock musician with a history of mental illness, was found naked and severely burnt early on the morning of January 28, 1997. He maintained before he died 16 days later that he had been attacked in a racist incident.

Last year, an inquest jury returned a vedict of unlawful killing on Mr Menson after police had been criticised for their handling of the investigation. Scotland Yard agreed to reopen the case and, in December, Mr Grieve said it was being treated as a possible racist attack.

Yesterday, supported by the dead man's brothers and sisters, he appealed to the public for help. Mr Grieve said police knew there were other attacks that had not been reported and urged the victims to come forward. He asked if anyone had been racially abused and set on fire by the gang. He wanted to know if there were people who had been threatened with being set alight as they travelled on buses or had been confronted with a cigarette lighter.

Two people have called the police anonymously and Essie Menson, Mr Menson's sister, urged them to telephone again. Mr Grieve said police knew that people had talked about the murder. Race crime was, he said, "a brag crime".

In an attempt to uncover witnesses to the attack on Mr Menson, he also called on people to come forward who might have been involved in minor crime in the area at the time of the murder and had seen something. Many people had been using telephone boxes close to the murder scene.

Mr Grieve said Mr Menson met his killers by ill chance. He had taken the wrong bus and met them on the bus, or at the end of the route. He asked if anyone else had been threatened on the bus, a W6, that night.

Right of secrecy for sex abuser is upheld

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE right of known sex abusers to keep their past secret — as long as they have no criminal convictions — has been upheld by the House of Lords. Five law lords have backed a ruling by the Court of Appeal last October that if a sex abuser moved from one local authority area to another, details of [illegible] could not be passed on.

The law [illegible] refused to give leave to the [illegible] Borough of Croydon to challenge the Court of Appeal ruling that the sex abuser involved was entitled to anonymity because he had not been convicted in a criminal court.

He had been found guilty of sexual abuse in care proceedings, where there is a lower standard of proof — "on a balance of probabilities" rather than the criminal test of "beyond reasonable doubt".

The move comes as the Government has pledged to give child care organisations details of past records of job applicants in an attempt to stop sex offenders from applying to work with children.

Last October the Court of Appeal overturned a High Court ruling that if a known sex abuser moved on, then such details could be passed on as a means of protecting children in the area.

The man, aged 37, had been acquitted by a criminal court of attempted rape but in subsequent care proceedings a judge found he had abused three children in his care. He has since moved to a new area.

Ashworth informer rebukes Dobson

By Mark Henderson

THE patient who revealed the paedophilia and pornography scandal at Ashworth special hospital yesterday criticised Frank Dobson for refusing to close the secure unit as recommended by a public inquiry.

Steven Daggett, who absconded from Ashworth in 1996 to draw attention to its failings, says in a letter to *The Times* that the Health Secretary "had decided to abrogate his political responsibilities" by ordering a security review instead of closure.

Writing from Rampton special hospital, Nottinghamshire, where he is now held, Daggett says that he is "deeply disappointed" by the missed opportunity for reforming a discredited system.

The inquiry, chaired by Peter Fallon, QC, a retired judge, this month advised Mr Dobson to close Ashworth, on Merseyside, as soon as possible. Senior staff had let an eight-year-old girl play unsupervised with child sex offenders and had permitted a trade in drugs and pornography.

Daggett, 38, from Skipton, North Yorkshire, who was convicted in 1986 of three sexual assaults on girls, urges Mr Dobson to accept the inquiry's findings that small, regional secure units should replace the unwieldy special hospitals.

He says that the Health Secretary has "entirely misjudged" the crisis within the high-security hospital system and that his decision "may ultimately return to haunt him".

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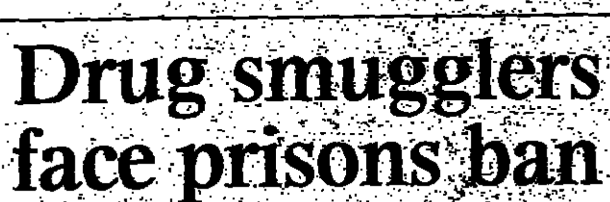


Drug smugglers face prisons ban

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

JACK STRAW yesterday announced automatic bans on visitors who smuggled drugs into jail, despite opposition from prison governors and reformers.

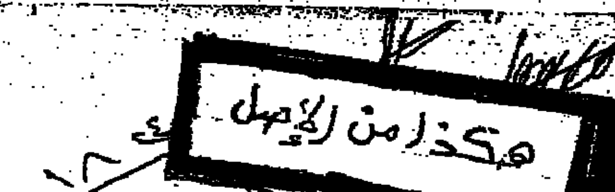
The Home Secretary said that, from April, visitors caught with drugs would face a ban of at least three months. When visits resumed they would be subject to security controls and prisoners who had previously been found with drugs would face regular drug tests and searches.

Last year 1,090 visitors were caught smuggling. Mr Straw said that drug use led to "gangsterism, intimidation, bullying and criminality in prison when we are trying to eradicate criminality".

However, governors said that it was better for prisons to refer smugglers to police. Chris Scott, the president of the Prison Governors' Association, said that prisons already had the power to ban visitors, and that automatic bans could cause further problems by preventing inmates from seeing their children.

Paul Cavadino, the policy director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said that the crackdown could be unfair to prisoners' wives and girlfriends, who were forced by dealers to smuggle drugs against their will.

The Prison Service said that visitors found with drugs would continue to be reported to the police and would face possession charges.



Trying to help children of the revolution

Alexandra Frean looks at the social changes that have led to a new plan for unmarried mothers

IN THE early 1960s, when abortion was illegal, the children of unmarried teenage mothers were routinely taken away by social workers and given up for adoption. Within the space of two generations, unmarried motherhood is far more common and social workers are legally bound to prevent children having to be looked after away from their natural families.

The figures expose a revolution in social attitudes towards birth and marriage. In 1975, 9 per cent of all live births were outside marriage. The figure had risen to 23 per cent by 1985 and 37 per cent by 1997. Among teenagers, the rates are even higher, putting Britain at the top of any league table.

Although the advent of the Pill has meant a decline in the overall number of babies born to teenagers - from 63,500 in 1975 to 41,900 in 1995 - the percentage of those births taking place outside marriage has soared. In 1975, 32 per cent of births to women aged under 20 were to unmarried mothers. This had risen to 89 per cent by 1997 - nearly nine out of every ten teenage births. At the same time there has been a massive fall in adoptions. In 1968, at its peak, nearly 25,000 babies were adopted in Britain. Today the figure is closer to 6,000. In a recent study of teenage mothers, conducted by the Policy Studies Institute, one pregnant young woman summed up the feelings of many of her peers when she said she would rather have a termination than consider giving her baby away.

Partly as a result of these changes, there are now 1.6 million single-parent families in Britain, with a total of 2.8 million dependent children, up from 570,000 one-parent families and one million children in 1971. These dramatic shifts in public attitude have profound implications for policy and the public purse.

Although reluctant to stigmatise single mothers, the Government is becoming increasingly concerned that, in allowing these trends to continue unchecked, it may be sowing the seeds of intractable social problems for years to come. Reluctant to alienate Cabinet supporters who see lone-parent families as an acceptable alternative lifestyle, the Prime Minister has chosen to tackle the problem by enticing more single mothers off benefits and into the workplace.

Given that a lone parent with one child under the age of 11 gets housing and other benefits worth £134 per week, and that there is a considerable body of evidence to show that children of working parents perform better at school, it is seen by many as the policy line of least resistance.

The introduction of the working-family tax credit and a new childcare allowance means that the lone parent of one child under 11 would now be able to boost her income by £67 a week if she took a full-time (35-hour) job at the minimum wage of £3.60 an hour - enough to make a considerable difference to her child's lifestyle.

In addition to this incentive, single parents will now be asked to show up for compulsory interviews at jobcentres before they can claim benefit, but with no loss of benefit if they fail to attend. There they will get one-to-one help from a personal adviser to find work and top up their pay with the appropriate benefits and tax credits.

None of this, however, will succeed unless the Government can also improve access to high-quality, low-cost childcare. To this end it has launched a National Childcare Strategy, which is aiming to create one million extra day-care places for children aged 4 to 14.

Judge halts porn film blackmail hearing

By Paul Wilkinson

A MAN accused of extorting almost £500,000 from a retired bank manager who bought a set of pornographic videos more than 20 years ago was cleared yesterday after a judge described the alleged victim's evidence as "inconsistent and unreliable".

During the eight-day trial, Brian Crossling was said to have used threats of exposure to force Mr X to hand over pension pay-outs, sell and remortgage his homes and even borrow from friends.

The case at Newcastle Crown Court collapsed when Mr X said in evidence: "He didn't blackmail me as such, there was never any threat." He said that he had felt sorry for Mr Crossling, who had told him of a family tragedy.

Mr Crossling, 40, from Roddymoor, Durham, denied blackmailing Mr X and demanding £449,500 between 1972 and July 1997.

Mr X said: "I took pity on him. Mr Crossling had a daughter who died. He was very depressed when it happened. She was about three and died from meningitis. He poured his heart out to me and asked me for some money. I felt sorry for him. He did not threaten me."

Judge David Wood told the jury: "There is no case against this defendant. Mr X's evidence was so inconsistent and unreliable that no jury could convict."

CJD victim's family wins verdict of misadventure

One meal of beef may have led to death, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

A SINGLE meal of beef may have been responsible for the death of the first known victim of the human brain disorder linked to "mad cow" disease, an inquest was told yesterday.

The family of Stephen Churchill, who died aged 19 in 1995, told the inquest in Wiltshire of his descent from typical schoolboy to shambling wreck. They had fought for 3½ years for the right to an inquest into his death from the condition that has since become known as new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, after "natural causes" was originally recorded as the reason for the disorder.

Dr James Ironside, of the CJD surveillance unit at the University of Edinburgh, told the inquest that the schoolboy had almost certainly contracted the disease from eating sausages or burgers containing infected beef.

The West Wiltshire Coroner, David Masters, who recorded a verdict of misadventure, said: "On the balance of probabilities the route of transmission is due to the random consumption of a meat product infected with BSE. It can be, and probably was, just one random consumption."

Since Stephen's death, 35 people have died of new-variant CJD and a further eight cases have been confirmed.

As the verdict came in, Stephen's mother Dot collapsed in tears. She was comforted by her husband David and daughter Helen. Mr Churchill said later: "It is quite a terrifying thought that one single meal could create such a dreadful disease in one person and randomly affect the rest of the population."

His wife added: "When the coroner said 'misadventure' it was like saying that Stephen should never have died. It brings it home that this disease was man-made. It should never have happened. There are so many young people dying from this and it is tragic."

Stephen, from Devizes, in Wiltshire, was a normal teenager with an impressive academic record and an ambition to become an RAF fighter pilot when he first began to show symptoms of brain disease. At first the symptoms were mild and attributed to depression. Stephen did surprisingly badly in his mock A levels and left the Air Cadets.

Then in August 1994 he nearly died in his mother's car when he found himself inexplicably driving on the wrong side of the road. Soon Stephen's co-ordination and memory began to fail and he was suffering frightening hallucinations. He became a virtual recluse, emerging only reluctantly from his bedroom.

Tests that he had in hospital suggested a degenerative brain disorder and his parents were told his condition was incurable. He was admitted to a nursing home, where he died in May 1995. Mrs Churchill said that it had crossed her mind that his illness resembled BSE, the then-mysterious infection killing cattle.

She said: "I did say to my husband that it might be related to BSE because you see the cows staggering but we dismissed it as a stupid thought.

"We had a varied diet. One of [Stephen's] favourite foods was sausage. He did have burgers and spaghetti bolognaise, all the foods everybody ate during the 1980s." Last year the Churchills gave evidence to the Government's BSE inquiry.

Stephen Churchill with his mother Dorothy, father David and sister Helen. He died, aged 19, in 1995

Tributes to the man who saved the Mail

THE late Viscount Rothermere, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, was interested not only in history, newspapers and beautiful women, but also in reincarnation, the congregation at his memorial service in Westminster Abbey was told yesterday.

One of his editors, facing falling circulation but emboldened by drink, asked his boss if he was not worried that he might reappear in his next life as a roadsweeper. Lord Rothermere immediately fielded the question: was the editor not worried that he himself might end up as a roadsweeper in his present life?

More than 1,100 people, led by Tony and Cherie Blair, William and Ffion Hague and Sir Denis and Baroness Thatcher, filled the abbey to hear Paul Dacre, Editor-in-Chief of the *Mail*, describe his former chairman as the greatest newspaper proprietor of his age.

After inheriting the dying newspaper 27 years ago, Mr Dacre said, Lord Rothermere had not only rescued it by realising that there was a vast untapped market of emancipated women readers, he had also turned its owner, Associated Newspapers, into a major media empire.

"He possessed that rare alchemy of contradictory talents — a brilliant business mind and a talent for understanding the creative process of newspapers," Mr Dacre said.

Memorial service, page 20

Lecturer's lone bypass stand angers locals

By Simon de Bruxelles

A LECTURER who gave up home and career to be an anti-roads protester was yesterday singlehandedly blocking the last stage of a new bypass.

Margaret Jones, who will be 50 on Saturday, is holed up in a derelict warehouse, the only remaining member of a group who broke in two weeks ago and declared "squatters' rights". Swathed in damp blankets and yelling through a hole in the roof, Dr Jones said yesterday: "It was not a huge step for me to do this. Politics has always been in me and I am doing it because I believe in it."

Two years ago she was a lecturer in American literature at the University of the West of England in Bristol, with a house in the suburbs. She gave up her job in 1997 to devote herself to environmental protest. Two weeks ago Dr Jones, who is single and does not have children, cut her final ties to her old life when she sold the house.

Eight protesters broke into the warehouse in Warmley, near Bristol, two weeks ago in an attempt to stop the Avon Ring Road scheme. Seven of them went out for provisions shortly afterwards and were unable to return after contractors blocked their path. Now Dr Jones remains alone behind the fencing and security guards, supplied through the wire by supporters.

The ring road stretches ten miles around the eastern fringes of the city. South Gloucestershire council had been due to start work on the final stretch in 1993, but two campaigners, Barry McNeeney and Andrew Nicolson, conducted a legal challenge that delayed it for five years. The cost of the project rose by £3 million and the two men's £100,000 bill was metthrough legal aid. The House of Lords threw out their case last April and £4 million was allocated to keep protesters away from the construction site at Siston Common.

Dr Jones's stand has angered locals who want the bypass completed to keep traffic away from residential streets. On Sunday, residents turned up to protest at the delays.

John Hunt, a Labour councillor and spokesman on planning and transport, said: "I object to these self-appointed people [the campaigners] who try to impose their point of view on the masses. I know I speak for the vast majority of locals who have suffered years of misery with relentless traffic and noise. I could possibly understand if this was a new road, but all we are trying to do is complete an existing one. They are not from around here and they do not have the support of local people."

Dr Jones says she has been an eco-warrior "in spirit" since her home in Hertfordshire was demolished to make way for a road when she was 11. She taught in the United States before returning to Britain in 1992.

The council is now trying to gain an eviction order through the courts. Dr Jones's involvement in "direct action" protests has landed her in court in the past, and she is becoming something of a legend among fellow protesters. Rowland Dye, of Stop the Avon Ring Road, said: "Margaret is a remarkable woman and we all have tremendous respect for her." On Saturday they will attempt to smuggle in a birthday cake.

Hard-headed: Margaret Jones, who has given up her university job to block the progress of the Avon Ring Road

Boy found hanging after row over mess

By Paul Wilkinson

A BOY was found hanging by his England football scarf soon after arguing with his parents about his messy bedroom.

Adam Firth, 12, went to his room after being told off for not tidying it by his mother Julie and father Rob. They later found him hanging from his bunk bed.

Adam was a pupil at Balby Carr school, Doncaster. A spokesman said that teachers had told the 1,500 pupils of the death. "Adam was a model pupil, very friendly and well-mannered. There had been no indication that anything was wrong," the spokesman said.

Detective Inspector Dick Venables, of South Yorkshire Police, said: "It would appear he had a minor dispute with his parents regarding the state of his bedroom. These are tragic circumstances and an inquest will be opened to look into what exactly happened."

Mr and Mrs Firth, who are believed to have another son and a daughter, were too upset to comment.

Grieving isle advertises for young family

By Shirley English, Scotland Correspondent

THE Hebridean isle of Iona is advertising for a family to move there after a boating accident wiped out almost all its young men.

A house, described as having B&B potential and previously occupied by one of the four victims, has been advertised to let, but only families with young children have been asked to apply.

As is the case on most remote Scottish islands, Iona's population has been shrinking steadily over recent years but the accident in December has heightened the impact. The population stands at 102, of which 40 per cent are more than 60 years old.

There is one baby on the island and the primary school's four pupils are due to move in the summer to Oban High School on the mainland. Unless there is an influx of youngsters, islanders fear that the primary school may close.

Evelyn MacPhail, an Iona community councillor, said: "There are no other children of school age and if the school closed it would be another blow to the community.

"It would also make it more difficult to attract newcomers without a school. All those who died in the boating accident may well have set up their own homes on the island and had families of their own. It is a very depressed island at the moment."

The four men were returning home from a Christmas dinner-dance on the island of Mull in the early hours of December 13 when their wooden dingy was swamped by a wave during the one-mile crossing.

They were Alisdair Dougall, 19, David Kirkpatrick, 23, both fishermen, Logie MacFadyen, 24, a farmer, and Robert Hay, 23, a tour boat operator. Their friend, Gordon Grant, 33, who also runs a tour boat, managed to swim ashore. The bodies were recovered earlier this month.

Gordon Grant senior, the father of the survivor, said: "There just aren't enough jobs on the island and housing is a problem. The only work we have is through tourism during the summer and many of the houses here are rented out as holiday homes."

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute District Council said the future of the school would be discussed at the next education committee meeting.

Euro vote hope for caged hens

By Michael Hornsby

UP TO eight million hens arrive at slaughterhouses every year in Britain with broken bones, it is claimed today.

The battery cages in which most egg-laying birds are reared make bones brittle because hens are denied exercise, according to Compassion in World Farming.

The publication of the report comes on the eve of a vote in the European Parliament on the future of battery cages. In Britain alone some 30 million hens, about 85 per cent of the flock, are kept in cages.

The report says that brittle bones due to osteoporosis are common in caged hens, with one study finding that all birds were osteoporotic after a year of confinement. Philip Lymbery, the charity's campaigns director, said: "We urge Europe's politicians to ensure that breakfast in the new millennium involves breaking a free-range egg."

European MPs will vote on a proposal to increase minimum floor space per bird from 450 sq cm (less than a side of A4 paper) to 800 sq cm.

CORRECTION

A report (Media, January 22) wrongly quoted Stuart Smith, who, together with Victoria Greetham, hoaxed Channel 4 into making a documentary about them, as saying, "I get a high out of it, and it keeps me off drugs". In fact Mr Smith said "it's like being on a constant high but without drugs". The error, for which we apologise, arose from wrong information supplied by Channel 4.

Wild boars 'should be eradicated'

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

BRITAIN'S wild boars should be eradicated because of the risk they pose to wildlife and public safety, conservation experts said yesterday.

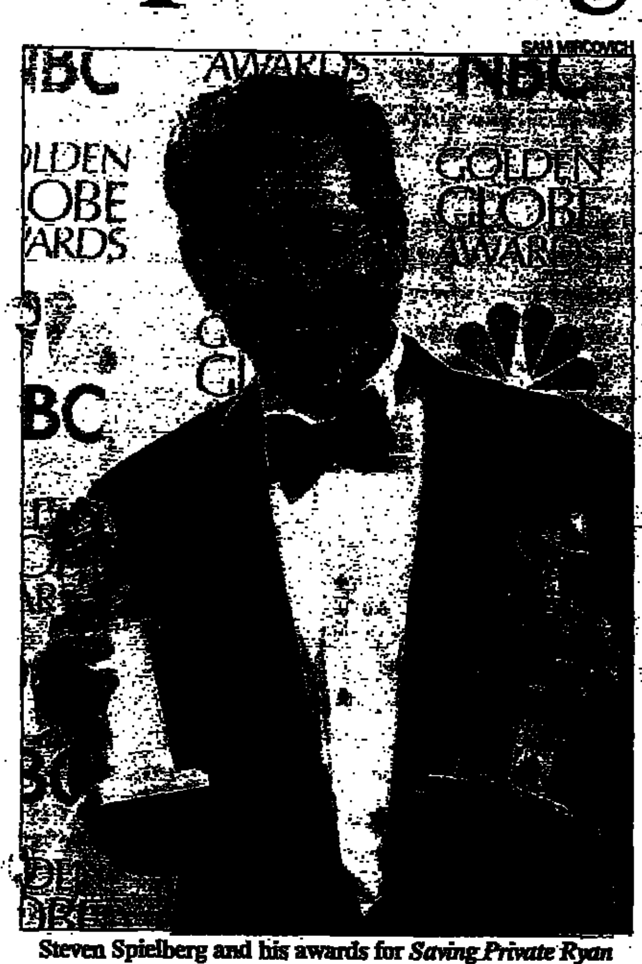
The Game Conservancy Trust, which advises the Government on countryside issues, said there would be a growing risk of people being injured or killed if boars were left to breed unchecked. The trust also gave warning that the animals could damage crops, kill lambs and ground-nesting birds and pass on diseases to free-range pigs. Up to 300 wild boars are at large in Kent, East Sussex and Dorset after escaping from commercial farms. Each female can produce two litters of up to nine piglets each year.

The trust's recommendations came in response to a Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food consultation document published last year. Dr Stephen Tapper, who wrote the trust's *Wild Boar Consultation Report*, said yesterday: "It would be irresponsible to do nothing ... These populations will increase and could get out of hand." He said that trained marksmen should be hired to eradicate the animals, and thattighter controls should be imposed on farms.

Keith Taylor, of the Wild Boar Association, supported the trust's call for eradication.

A spokesman for the ministry said that the trust's report echoed recommendations made by the Central Science Laboratory, and that eradication was one option that ministers were studying.

Spielberg on top of the Globes


Steven Spielberg and his awards for *Saving Private Ryan*

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

STEVEN SPIELBERG paid tribute to D-Day veterans as *Saving Private Ryan*, judged to be the most realistic war film ever made, was voted best film and he best director at the Golden Globe awards.

Speaking at the Beverly Hills ceremony on Sunday night, he thanked the veterans who had "saved Western civilisation and stopped the Holocaust in 1945", and had made his film possible.

While Spielberg stole the show for America, Britain was far from outdone: Michael Caine, Sir Tom Stoppard and Lynn Redgrave were among those flying the flag.

Caine, 65, collected the award for best actor in a musical or comedy film for his performance as a sleazy nightclub agent in *Little Voice*.

In his acceptance speech he joked: "What a shock! My career must be slipping. This is the first time I've ever been available to pick up an award." His previous awards include an Oscar for best supporting actor in Woody Allen's 1986 film, *Hannah and Her Sisters*.

According to Stephen Woolley, executive producer of *Little Voice*, Caine waived his normal star-sized fee. "I'm really pleased for Michael. He worked so incredibly hard. He wasn't being paid a huge Hollywood salary. He just loved the screenplay."

Sean Connery and Michael Caine at a post-awards party

They had worked together on *Mona Lisa* when Caine had lowered his fee to work with Bob Hoskins. He had done so again because of the script and the chance to work with Brenda Blethyn and Jane Horrocks. His instinct had paid off, Mr Woolley said.

The combined writing talents of Sir Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman won the best screenplay award for *Shakespeare in Love*. The American actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who has become an honorary Briton after starring as British characters in both that film and in *Sliding Doors*, won best actress in a comedy film. She beat off competition from Jane Horrocks, who delivered near-perfect impersonations of Marilyn Monroe and Marlene Dietrich in *Little Voice*.

Lynn Redgrave won the best supporting actress award for *Gods and Monsters*, in which she plays a crusty but loving maid to an ageing horror film director. She said: "It's been 32 years since I stood one of these on a mantelpiece and it's been crying out for a friend ever since."

Hopes of the award for best actress in a drama going to Britain's Emily Watson, Jacqueline du Pré in *Hilary and Jackie*, were dashed when it was awarded to the Australian Cate Blanchett for her performance in the title role of *Elizabeth*.

Another British hope, Stephen Fry, nominated for his portrayal of Oscar Wilde in *Wilde*, was beaten to the best dramatic actor award by Jim Carrey for *The Truman Show*. Carrey's co-star, Ed Harris, was named best supporting actor.

Jack Nicholson, who in the past has been nominated for 14 Golden Globes and has won five, received the Cecil B.DeMille Award for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field".

The awards, which are in their 56th year, are chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and are said to give a good indication as to who will win Oscars two months later. However, *Shakespeare in Love* could be limited to a best screenplay award as neither best comedy nor actress in a comedy feature in the Oscars. Michael Caine's category is also a non-starter.

Gwyneth Paltrow made an emotional acceptance speech

Sarwar's election fraud trial is delayed

By Gillian Harris
Scotland Correspondent

THE trial of Mohammad Sarwar, Britain's first Muslim MP, was adjourned yesterday after a procedural delay.

The MP for Glasgow Govan, who faces charges of electoral fraud and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, made no comment as he arrived at the High Court in Edinburgh with his wife, Perveen.

The trial, which will begin today before Lady Cosgrove, is expected to last at least six weeks. Witnesses listed to give evidence include the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, who as Labour's Chief Whip oversaw the Labour investigation into the allegations against Mr Sarwar which resulted in the MP being suspended from the party.

Alan Johnson, the Labour MP for Hull West, and Jack McConnell, the former general secretary of the Scottish Labour Party, are also expected to give evidence.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, denies inducing by fraudulent means the electoral registration officer for Glasgow to add the names and addresses of four people to the Govan register in March 1997. He is also charged with breaching the 1983 Representation of the People Act by knowingly making a false declaration about his election expenses.

Mumtaz Hussain, of Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, appeared in court with Mr Sarwar yesterday. He faces one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Sarwar yesterday: hearing was adjourned

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strike date for meat inspectors

Meat inspectors are to hold a 24-hour strike on February 2 in a dispute over pay and conditions that could disrupt supplies. Unison, their union, said yesterday that it had instructed nearly 1,000 of its members employed as inspectors by the Meat Hygiene Service to stay away from work on that day. Last week 352 inspectors voted for a strike, and 225 against, in a 57 per cent turnout after Unison rejected an imposed 4 per cent pay deal, backdated to last April. The union said that inspectors should have received 4.7 per cent, the same as Ministry of Agriculture staff.

Diver suffocated

A post-mortem examination on Warrant Officer John Rann, 38, serving with the 1st Battalion The Light Infantry in Cyprus, showed that he ran out of air while searching for a lost flipper when diving off Larnaca on Sunday.

Scouts found

Four girl Scouts lost in fog for 12 hours on a hike across the Sussex Downs kept up their spirits by singing. The girls, aged 13 and 14, were located in the early hours of yesterday by a helicopter equipped with a heat-sensitive camera.

Larkin's Way

The poet Philip Larkin has had a street named after him in Wellington, Shropshire, which he described as a "hole of toad's turds". He worked in the town's library in the 1940s, saying he "never felt anything but degraded" by the post.

Offer scotched

An offer by Go, the cut-price arm of British Airways, to give any passenger wearing a kilt a free Burns Night flight from Stansted to Edinburgh, flopped. Check-in staff wearing tartan caps had no takers for the 40 seats.

Traffic stopper

A road-safety campaigner has stopped drivers speeding past his home by erecting a poster of the model Eva Herzigova undressing in his front garden. "It worked like a treat as soon as I put it up," said Cyril Long, of Barham, Suffolk.

Gypsies turn road into racecourse

By Simon de Bruxelles

GYPSIES who blocked a two-mile stretch of dual carriageway to hold a trotting race were being sought by police yesterday.

About 60 travellers stopped traffic on the A303, near Yeovil, Somerset, at 8am on Sunday and unloaded ponies and traps from a small convoy of vans.

Several races took place before competitors and spectators fled down country lanes, pursued by police. "They drove off with their boot lids up so we could not get the registration numbers," a spokesman for Avon and Somerset police said. Motorists inundated the police with calls on their mobile phones when they found the westbound carriageway blocked. The spectators were cheering and betting on traps racing between the Podimore roundabout and Ilchester bypass.

The police spokesman said that the departing spectators delayed traffic long enough to allow the riders and carts to escape and then made off through the village of Podimore.

No arrests were made and police investigations are continuing.

I'm no monster, says Sainsbury

Mark Inglefield finds the minister accused over 'Frankenstein foods' ready to rebut the scaremongers

LORD SAINSBURY of Turville, the Minister for Science under attack over his links to research into genetically modified food, hit back at the Tories yesterday by calling them an "anti-business" party.

The Labour peer, who was until 1997 the chairman of the Sainsbury's chain of supermarkets, had been accused of funding experiments in food through a private charitable trust. He claimed the alleged "blatant conflict of interest" was impossible as his personal fortune — estimated at £2 billion — was controlled by a blind trust over whose decisions which he had no say.

The Tories had claimed that Lord Sainsbury had channelled money from the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, which the peer had set up in 1987, to the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich to experiment in genetically modified food. The foundation directs £20 million a year to worthy causes.

They also claimed that Lord Sainsbury's position on a Cabinet committee dealing with gene foods policy was a conflict of interest. Lord Sainsbury said: "What the Sainsbury Laboratory does is fundamental research into disease resistance in plants. It isn't remotely of value to Sainsbury's. That would conflict with charity law and a charity cannot personally benefit in any way a person who gives it money."

Lord Sainsbury, 59, would appear to be a very useful person to have in Government. Besides his business expertise, he is passionate about his brief — he even held his last wedding anniversary in the Science Museum — and he is reported to have given new Labour £3 million. But have the accusations that he is in a position to benefit from pushing the Government into allowing "Frankenstein foods" on to supermarket shelves ever made him feel like throwing in the towel?

"Not really," he says. "It's the post I've always wanted. I've always been interested in science and how it relates to quality-of-life issues. This is the ideal job to do something about that."

Lord Sainsbury, ennobled by Mr Blair in 1997, says the Opposition have put two and two together and made five.

"I have very little to do with any genetically modified food," he says. "All that is handled by Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment. The only possible area where it might come up is the Cabinet committee, which covers the whole of biotechnology. The committee has only met once and it didn't come up then." He still appoints the trustees of the Gatsby foundation, but has a small say in where the money goes.

> 'I think it is rather a shame that the Tories are becoming an anti-business party'

Lord Sainsbury joined the Labour Party after leaving Cambridge, but as the party drifted further to the Left in the 1970s he saw the need for a radical rethink. He joined the SDP in the 1980s. After it merged with the Liberals he devoted his time to Sainsbury's, resurfacing when Tony Blair became Labour leader.

He insists he is no bandwagon jumper. "I wrote a Fabian pamphlet in the late 1970s called *Government and Industry: a New Partnership* and basically that was new Labour before its time."

Were you or have you ever been a Socialist?

"Um. I've always been a member of the Labour Party," he says, again smiling.

Lord Sainsbury insists that he would stand aside if he ever felt there was a genuine conflict of interest. "I think it's very important that there aren't conflicts of interest in Government, but having said that I think it's very important that business people do come into politics," he says. He believes the Tories' point-scoring is further proof they are out of touch with modern commerce.

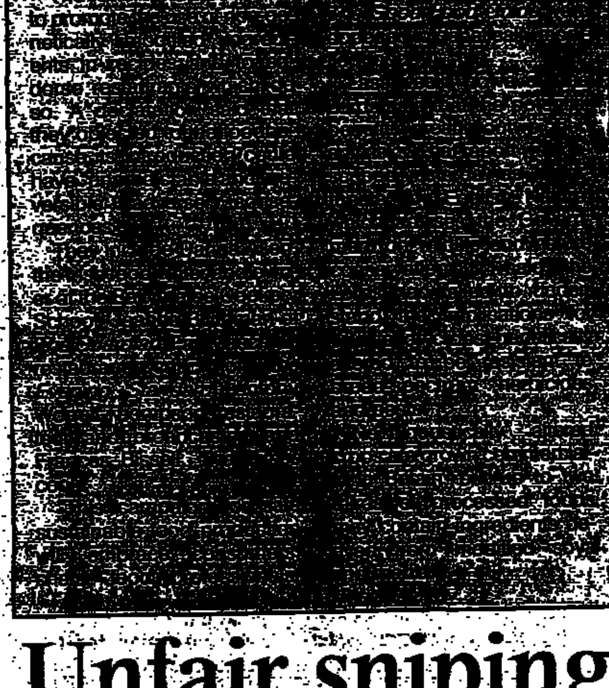
PETER TREVNOR

Lord Sainsbury: denied conflict of interest between research at the Sainsbury Laboratory and his role as Science Minister

"When we had Conservative businessmen in government I think the Labour Party accepted the conventions about blind trusts and those sort of issues," he says, "so it's really rather a shame that they are becoming an anti-business party."

Lord Sainsbury is also keen to point out that his shareholding has been handled correctly. "All my Sainsbury shares are in a blind trust," he says. On genetic modification of vegetables, or as the tabloids put it, "Frankenstein's grub", he says: "I don't think headlines about Frankenstein tomatoes really contribute much. There is a serious debate to be had about biodiversity and safety and the more the debate can be kept on those issues the better it will be, I think."

WRITERS PUT NAMES TO CAMPAIGN



Unfair sniping has become a dirty business

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Any businessman considering becoming a minister must be having second thoughts. Each of the industrialists who has become a minister has had his business affairs subject to minute, even obsessive, examination and criticism. This goes well beyond maintaining proper standards and raises questions about the type of people we want in politics and government.

Immediately after the election, Lord Simon of Highbury, the former chairman of BP, was criticised over his shares in the company. Then came the long-running Geoffrey Robinson saga over his offshore trusts and complex business interests. Last summer, the appointment of Lord Macdonald of Tradeston as a Scottish Office minister caused a stir because of his previous position as chairman of Scottish Media Group. This month, Michael Wills, the new small business minister, has been criticised over his television production company, while Lord Sainsbury of Turville has been accused of a conflict of interest between his role as Minister for Science and the holdings in the family supermarket chain.

There is no evidence that any of these ministers abused their position in office. The criticisms of Lord Simon and Mr Wills are based on misunderstandings of the business world. The former was legally constrained about when he could sell his BP shares because of the inside information he had as a recent chairman, while it has taken time for Mr Wills as founder and predominant owner of his company to complete the legal steps to divest himself of his interests. Whatever else may be said about Mr Robinson, there is no evidence he did anything to benefit himself financially. He resigned because his value as a minister had been eroded by cumulative attrition. The odd point has been the attitude of the Tories. Their desire to get their own back after the over-the-top attacks from Labour before the election is understandable but short-sighted. Their criticisms of Lord Simon and Lord Sainsbury have struck many in the City and industry as irresponsible and have done nothing for the party's standing with business.

The various Tory businessmen who became ministers followed similar procedures, using blind trusts and standing aside from possible conflicts of interest. Instead of acting like hyperactive investigative journalists, the Tories should be seeking to strengthen procedures to avoid such charges.

The present system is too informal and depends on varying departmental interpretations. As I have argued before, what is needed is an ethics commissioner or office to advise on potential conflicts of interest for ministers, as the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards already does for MPs. The Government is looking to the forthcoming inquiry by the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life.

The underlying question is whether we want business people to come into politics, which as Lord Sainsbury rightly argues is very important. Businessmen have often struggled to make a mark at the very top, but they have contributed at the medium level, as Lord Simon and Lord Sainsbury now are, by providing private sector insights and a bridge to industry.

The danger is that, otherwise, we will be stuck with more and more full-time career politicians with no outside experience. That is in no one's interests, as Tory spokesmen would discover from talking to Archie Norman, their party's chief executive who, as head of Asda, was one of Lord Sainsbury's fiercest rivals.

Reclusive artist kept himself out of the picture

Dalya Alberge on legacy of man convinced of his greatness

TWO houses overflowing with paintings have been left by a reclusive artist who refused to sell his work during his 90-year life.

Theodore Major — who, like his friend L.S. Lowry, was inspired by the industrial landscapes of northern England — repeatedly turned down offers for his work from public and private collectors.

Fearful that his art would not be properly appreciated, he hoarded about 3,000 canvases. It was said that he bought a second house just to store his paintings, which lined the walls from floor to ceiling.

"He painted because of an obsession and he was very protective towards his work," said Michael Leber of Salford Art Gallery, which owns one of his works, *Pit at Wigan*. "I think he developed a healthy suspicion of the art establishment in general, although, as a teacher of art, he was part of it."

Lowry: few words on friend's exhibition

The artist, he explained, feared that his work would suffer the indignity of being relegated to a darkened museum storeroom. The thought was too much to bear, particularly as Major was an artist convinced of his own greatness. He campaigned unsuccessfully for a gallery in Wigan devoted to his art.

The future of his personal collection was unclear yesterday, although dealers from London were believed to be interested. The decision depends on his daughter and his will.

Mary Major, a teacher and artist, said that some of her father's works were likely to be sold to support a charitable trust fund. She said she understood his refusal to part with the paintings. "He was entirely devoted to his works," she said. "They were almost like his children. He had a vision of art. It was more of a religion than a money-making business."

Mr Leber said that Major deserved his own gallery: "Some of his work is a major contribution to 20th-century British art. He did a number of works based on the Wigan area which are about death and decay. The figures are almost skeletons."

The artist was described as "an egocentric old chap" by Lawrence Ives, a collector who was also a friend of Lowry. He said yesterday: "Theo also made the frames for his work. He used to call it putting them in their coffins."

Mr Ives recalled when Major allowed his work to be exhibited in Bolton in the late 1960s: "Lowry and Theo set off to tour the exhibition, which had about 30 or 40 pictures. I followed them. They walked around in complete silence. It was very funny. I was expecting great pearls of wisdom.

"They got to a corner and sat on some steps. There was a long pause. Lowry said, 'As you get older, it don't get any easier, Theo'. There was a long pause. Theo said, 'That it don't, that it don't'. And that was the sole comment on this exhibition ... Lowry would never have made a personal remark about a fellow artist."

Around the galleries, page 35

Rooms with a view: Theodore Major filled two homes with his paintings, which his daughter said were almost like children to him

Art thieves 'had a shopping list'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ARMED robbers who stole paintings worth £2 million from York City Art Gallery ignored works at least as valuable, police said yesterday.

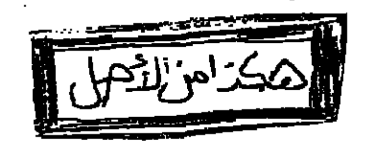
Detectives believe the two thieves, who called each other Bert and Tony, were working to a "shopping list" put together by underworld art experts.

Among the paintings they passed over during the raid on Friday evening were two by L.S. Lowry which together were as valuable as the £500,000 Turner they did take.

The watercolour, a view of Rievaulx Abbey in the early 1820s, was one of 20 paintings and decorated wood panels stolen.

A spokesman for North Yorkshire police said: "It seems the thieves were following orders and were not art lovers or collectors themselves. One other theory is that they were after just one good picture, maybe the Turner, and decided to add a few more to their collection just for good luck."

Art dealers have been asked to keep a look-out for the stolen works and a catalogue has been circulated to other police forces.



Iraqis claim civilians died in air attack

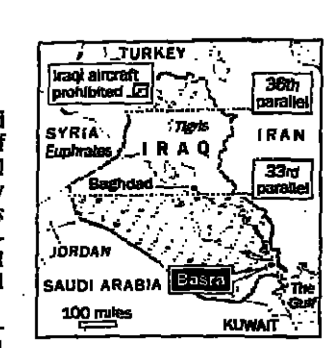
By Michael Theodoulou
in Nicosia

IRAQ accused American and British military aircraft of *firing missiles into residential* areas in the southern port city of Basra yesterday. *The Iraqis* also claimed that several civilians, including women and children, were killed and wounded in the attack.

Britain denied any involvement. Washington confirmed that its warplanes had been in action over the southern no-fly zone after an Iraqi incursion, but said they had attacked air *defence systems north* of Basra. American aircraft later attacked three separate anti-aircraft facilities in the northern no-fly zone after they were tracked by ground radar and came under fire by surface-to-air missiles.

There have been numerous clashes since Iraq declared that it would challenge British *and US warplanes in its skies* after Operation Desert Fox in December, but yesterday's incidents appeared to mark a serious escalation. Iraq has admitted boosting air defences in the south in the hope of hitting allied aircraft.

A producer for the Ameri*can television network* CNN saw 12 houses destroyed in a poor residential area of Basra. Local officials said 11 people had been killed in the "indiscriminate and savage" attack. Basra airport and an oilfield had also been hit, they said.



In the initial confusion it *was unclear whether stray mis*siles were to blame. Washing*ton said two bombs landed out*side their target areas but had no reason to believe they were responsible for civilian casualties. Baghdad's critics in the past have accused Iraqi gunners of shielding behind the civilian population.

The incidents in the no-fly *zones, established in the wake* of the 1991 Gulf War to protect the Kurdish and Shia communities, came as an isolated Iraq fulminated against the Arab League's decision to issue a resolution critical of Baghdad. Furious state-run Iraqi newspapers said it had provided *cover for more* American and British attacks instead of condemning last month's Operation Desert Fox.

Tension in the Gulf is expect*ed to mount further* today when Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament meets in special session to discuss the issue of Kuwait. The session follows calls *from prominent deputies* for the Government to withdraw *Iraq's 1994 recognition of the* tiny emirate because sanctions have not been lifted.

"We could be back to 1990," said one Gulf Arab envoy. "Iraq's attitude is that it has honoured its commitments but the Security Council is refusing to do its job."

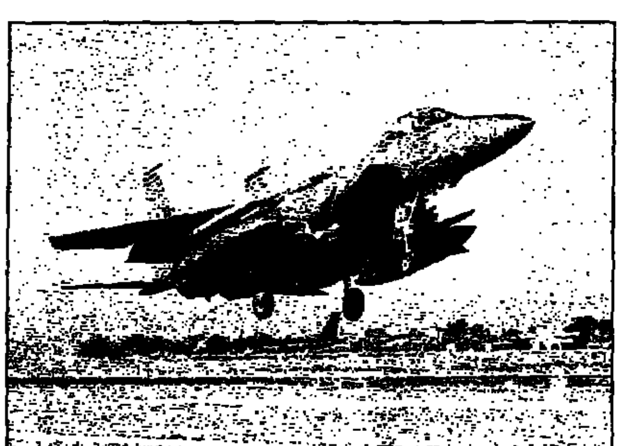
President Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait and Saudi *Arabia at the weekend of glut*ting world oil markets to the detriment of other Arab states and the benefit of the Americans. The two countries had handed "America and Zionism knives to pierce Arab nations with", he said. His remarks echoed Iraq's complaints against Kuwait before the 1990 invasion.

The Iraqi delegation walked out of the stormy Arab League talks in Cairo on Sunday when foreign ministers demanded that Baghdad renounce "provocations" against its neighbours and comply with United Nations resolutions before economic sanc*tions could be lifted.*

The foreign ministers made clear their sympathy for the Iraqi people, but offered none to Saddam's regime. They expressed "sorrow and displeasure" over the military option against Iraq but offered no explicit condemnation of the *four-day attacks in December.* Baghdad had demanded that Arab League members bypass the UN and lift sanctions.

Muhammad Said al-Sahaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, blamed Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria for the tone of the resolution, which newspapers *said was drawn up* "in advance by the Americans".

"Instead of condemning the US and British aggression against Iraq, these plotters, these corrupt parties and hypocrites blamed Iraq and put the responsibility on it," commented *al-Jumhuriya.*



An American F15E Strike Eagle, one of the aircraft involved in clashes over the no-fly zones of Iraq

DAVID DE LA PAZ / AP

A curtain of smog envelops Mexico City — top of the dirty-air league when sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are included in the cocktail of total atmospheric pollution, according to the World Resources Institute

Stressed-out rats shed light on how humans fall ill

From Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor
in Anaheim

TWO *strains of rats, one calm* and the other jumpy, are *throwing new light on human* diseases.

Although almost identical in other respects, the two strains tend to suffer different diseases. The calm rats develop rheumatoid arthritis, aller*gic skin diseases, asthma and* the rodent equivalent of multi*ple sclerosis. The nervous rats* are far more prone to colds and influenza.

The difference, said Dr Esther Sternberg of the US National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Mary*land, lies in how rats respond* to stress and the effect it has on their immune systems. Applied to humans, it may help to explain the occasional effectiveness of alternative medicine, or why some people in medical trials get better even when given sugar pills.

The calm rats, which Dr *Sternberg compared to laid*back Californians, respond to *stress by pumping out low lev*els of the stress hormones. One role of these hormones is to control the immune response, the body's mechanism for fighting off infections. If too little is produced, the im*mune response remains* turned up, and may actually *damage the body by turning* against it, in the auto-immune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and MS.

The jumpy rats, which she compared to New Yorkers, have the opposite problem. *They produce too much stress* hormone, which turns down the immune response so far that they make themselves vulnerable to ordinary infections.

The light the rats cast on the links between mood and disease were discussed on Sunday at the meeting of the *American Association* for the Advancement of Science in Anaheim, California.

☐ A WOMAN who laughs uncontrollably when pricked with a needle has illuminated the nature of jokes.

She suffers a particular kind of brain damage which makes a painful experience seem funny, a neurologist from the Centre for Brain and Cognition at the University of California at San Diego told the conference on Sunday.

Dr V.S. Ramachandran said that jokes provoke laugh*ter because they are nature's* false alarm system. "A typical *joke takes the listener along a* path of expectation, then at the end throws in a punchline which involves a complete reinterpretation of everything that has gone before," he said.

"It is the violation of expec*tations that makes jokes fun*ny. The reason we laugh is to alert other people *that it* is a false alarm — what has happened is not a serious threat."

As an example, he cited the traditional slapstick joke of a fat, self-important man slipping on a banana skin. This is *funny if he merely loses his* dignity, but if he cracks his skull open on the pavement and bleeds it is not funny, Dr Ramachandran said.

In the case of his *patient,* who laughed when pricked *with a needle, the brain dam*age lay in the links between the place in the brain where the pain is perceived and the place where that perception is processed in the emotional centres of the brain. "One part *of the brain said pain, but the* other said: it's no big deal. So *she laughs,*" he said.

☐ CHILDREN in the major cities of China and India breathe air so full of pollutant particles that it is equivalent to smoking 40 cigarettes a day, a leading environmental*ist claimed yesterday.*

Dr Devra Lee Davis of the World Resources Institute, a Washington-based think-tank, said explosive growth of traffic and industry has led to pollution levels far greater than World Health Organisation guidelines.

Of the top ten dirtiest cities, measured by total amounts of particulate matter in the air, nine are in China and one, Rajkot, in India, she said.

When sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are included, *a different picture* emerges. Making allowance for the number of children under five living in each city produces a league table in which Mexico City is top, followed by Beijing, Shanghai, Tehran, Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Tianjin, Manila and São Paulo.

A car being tested for emissions in Beijing

Family of five shot dead in Kosovo hamlet

From Tom Walker
in Belgrade

BRITISH monitors in Kosovo yesterday alerted the Serbian police to the deaths of five ethnic Albanians, whose bodies were found *shot* and burnt on *a tractor* and its *trailer* in an area the local authorities said was controlled by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

A retired British Army brigadier, Ian Macleod, brought six teams of international monitors to see the *bodies in* the hamlet of Rakovina, on the road leading from the western town of Djakovica towards Klina.

Sources close to the monitors said the victims were shot with a heavy machinegun on Sunday before their tractor and trailer, laden with corn, caught fire. Two of the dead were children; all were said to be from the same family. There was no confirmation on whether they were refugees.

The monitors helped to escort a Serb investigating magistrate to the scene, near the *so-called* "Ho Chi Minh" trail constructed by the KLA to *transport supplies between its* central Drenica and western *Decane zones of control.* The Serb media centre in Pristina claimed there had been no police patrols anywhere near the area for several days.

The incident is the worst in Kosovo since the Racak massacre *that claimed 45 Albanian* lives ten days ago.

The American envoy, Christopher Hill, met the ethnic Albanian leader, Ibrahim Rugova, in Pristina yesterday to "run through Contact Group *thinking*", according to an aide to Mr Hill. There are persistent rumours of a conference in Vienna at which Mr Rugova and political representatives of the KLA would try to find a common voice and an agenda falling short of outright independence.

A *spokeswoman* for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), meanwhile, dismissed as "absolute rubbish" reports that the senior international monitor, William Walker, might take an extended period of leave from his duties in Kosovo. *Mr Walker is still being* denounced by senior figures in the Serbian and Yugoslav Governments, who maintain that he should be expelled from Yugoslavia for his comments on Racak.

Even the OSCE chairman, Knut Vollebaek, the Norwegian Foreign Minister, seems to have distanced himself slightly, saying Mr Walker "reacted emotionally" in the massacre village and that "it would have been cynical and inhuman if he hadn't".

'Miracle' as boy survives -50C flight

Paris: Doctors have hailed as *a miracle the survival of an ad*olescent boy who hid in the undercarriage of an aircraft on a flight from Senegal to France (Ben Macintyre writes).

They say that he should have died of cold or suffocation. The boy, who claims to be aged 15 and has not been identified because he is a minor, spent five hours huddled near a wheel in the undercarriage as the aircraft reached *an altitude of more than* 30,000ft and the temperature dropped to -50C (-58F).

He was discovered, suffering from advanced hypothermia, after the Air Africa Airbus from Dakar landed at Lyons airport a week ago. The boy is now believed to be out of danger.

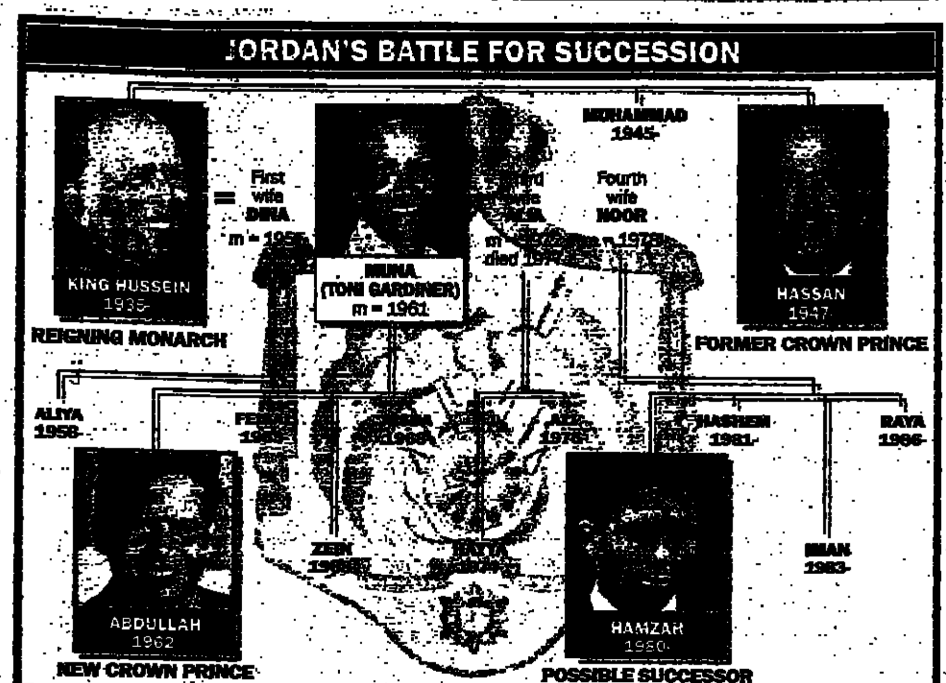
The Times and The Royal Institution

Scientists for the new century

IN THE first of a new series of lectures starting tomorrow, Dr Martin Westwell, a chemist from Oxford University, will describe the rise of the superbug. For the first time, modern medicine has no antibiotics with which to fight the most deadly bacteria.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BS. For tickets (£5/£3 concs) please call 0171 670 2985. Tickets will be held for collection at the venue on the night.

Leading article, page 19



Hussein plays safe by opting for eldest son

King's decision strengthens the English link, Christopher Walker writes

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan has ended days of speculation and confirmed by royal decree that his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, 36, is his heir in place of the King's 51-year-old brother, Prince Hassan, who had held the position of Crown Prince for 34 years.

The decree was signed on Sunday night after a spate of rumours that under the influence of his American-born fourth and current wife, Queen Noor, the King might have passed the succession to their son, Prince Hamzah, who is still a teenager.

Many senior Jordanian politicians had given a warning that such a move could provoke unrest. Toujan Faisal, Jordan's only woman MP until her defeat in last year's election, said: "Hamzah would have suffered the same fate as Faisal [Hussein's cousin, murdered when King of Iraq in 1958] because the people would have seen his promotion as blatantly unfair and a sign that behind the scenes the Americans were trying to run our country."

Mrs Faisal, who sat as an opposition independent in the lower house of Parliament, added: "After the plan was floated, the King saw it would be too risky to take the Hamzah option. Instead he opted for the much safer move of switching the succession back to Abdullah. But there are still many Jordanians who resent the way that Hassan has been dealt with."

Some officials said that Prince Hassan had taken the news "like a soldier" and immediately backed the move, while others claimed he had sought permission to take a holiday abroad and was seriously considering leaving the country. Most senior aides dismissed this suggestion.

The reappointment of Prince Abdullah to the role he held briefly in the early 1960s as a toddler has revived traditional British influence in Jordan. His English-born mother Princess Muna (née Toni Gardiner) is an occasional visitor to Amman, and the Prince himself served happily for a time in the British Army in Britain and West Germany. As both Princes — Abdullah and Hamzah — had foreign-born mothers who converted to Islam, the Crown Prince's background was described in royal circles as no longer seen as a bar to his succession to the throne that Hussein took over 47 years ago at the age of 17.

Senior politicians said that the King's encounter with his own mortality during his second major cancer scare in only seven years had prompted him to move quickly to restore the Hashemite monarchy's succession to a son who would carry on his own legacy.

For months, Amman had been plagued with rumours about different sons being favoured, speculation that was fuelled when the King was perceived as taking an action or expressing a sentiment in support of one or other of them.

Palace sources said the King had wavered briefly before signing the historic decree replacing his younger, Oxford-educated brother who had been his close confidant and had repeatedly acted as regent since his appointment in 1965, a time when the King feared early death from assassination and an end to the Hashemite line.

Last night politicians said that he was concerned that, despite perceived blunders during the past six months, his brother should be given a gracious dismissal to ensure that his removal did not cause future dissent in the family ranks. They claimed that the monarch, who has a reputation of acting magnaminously towards even his bitterest political enemies, might be planning to appoint him as his deputy in economic areas and the Middle East peace process — areas to which Prince Hassan has devoted his working life.

WEBLINKS

www.kinghussein.gov.jo/ — information on King Hussein of Jordan and the Hashemite dynasty.

www.lconnect.com/jordan/ — home page of the Hashemite kingdom.

corp.arabia.com/JordanToday/ — touches on tourism and culture.

www.accessme.com/turab/ — holy sites of Jordan.

The chosen one: Top, Prince Abdullah and brother Faisal with Muna, their mother; left, the Prince's parents on their wedding day in 1961; right, the Prince on parade

Down-to-earth blonde who won royal heart

By Christopher Walker

KING Hussein of Jordan's decision to reappoint his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, as heir has propelled back to the limelight one of the most unlikely and unassuming Englishwomen ever to play a major role in Middle East affairs.

When Toni Gardiner, then 19, became the King's second wife in 1961 it appeared like a fairytale romance for the blonde, down-to-earth girl who had met her husband-to-be when a young RAF officer took her Scottish-dancing at the King's house at Shuneh, beside the Dead Sea.

The daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Walker Gardiner, an officer who had stayed in Jordan after the British Training Mission was broken up in 1959, Ms Gardiner became a Muslim, a Jordanian citizen and took the name Muna al-Hussein (Hussein's Delight).

The King's first wife had been the Cambridge-educated Queen Dina. But with Ms Gardiner he seemed to have found the ideal partner, although some leading Jordanians had reservations about the offspring of a converted Muslim and English-born woman ever succeeding to the Hashemite throne.

"Toni was a vivacious outdoors girl with simple tastes and no intellectual pretensions," wrote Roland Dallas, the King's biographer. "She was pretty, charming and the same height as the King.

"Like Hussein, she enjoyed riding, swimming, dancing and parties ... She could not drive, and Hussein took delight in teaching her. They went go-karting together."

The King wrote in his autobiography: "For the first time in my life, here was a girl who took an interest in me as a human being and not a King." The marriage lasted until 1972, during which time the Princess (she did not wish to be called Queen) bore the King four children, two boys and twin girls, of which the eldest was Abdullah, born on January 30, 1962.

He was briefly created Crown Prince until King Hussein, unnerved by several assassination attempts, altered the succession in favour of his brother, Prince Hassan, 51, who was unceremoniously stripped of the role last week.

Despite a divorce soon after the King's eye lighted on Alia Toukan, a beautiful member of a Palestinian family with deep roots in the West Bank city of Nablus (who, as Queen Alia, was to be killed in a helicopter crash), Muna has remained a respected figure.

"She behaved with great dignity, turning down many other proposals of marriage and never speaking out bitterly about the divorce," a senior Palestinian journalist said yesterday. "She moved abroad, but has been back to Amman many times for family events like the birth of grandchildren, and remains one of the most-liked members of the Royal Family."

British diplomats are cock-a-hoop that the King has settled for an heir with English roots rather than his favourite son, Prince Hamzah, 19, the eldest son of his fourth and present marriage to the American-born Queen Noor.

> ‘She behaved with great dignity, never speaking bitterly of the divorce’

"There is no doubt that the Americans were plumping for Hamzah, hoping their influence on Jordan's future would rise proportionately," said a prominent Amman banker. Palace sources said that the King had eventually alighted on Abdullah because of his senior army role and his realisation of the bitterness — and possible violence — that the irregular promotion of Hamzah would provoke.

Abdullah has strong support in the tribally dominated armed forces and strong links with the Palestinians, who make up over 60 per cent of Jordan's population, via his wife Rania, from the West Bank town of Tulkarm.

Mercenaries' rage kindled by atrocities

Sierra Leone's rebels violate even the rough code of African conflicts, writes Sam Kiley

AS Sierra Leone's rebels continue to murder priests and missionaries, and amputate the limbs of civilians left to their mercy, battle-hardened mercenaries are vowing their willingness to "do the job for nothing — just to finish the rebels".

Fred Marafono MBE, a former warrant officer with the SAS, is now a mercenary for the Government. Aged 58 and a veteran of British campaigns in Oman, Borneo and Northern Ireland and scores of covert operations which took him from Mexico to South Africa, Mr Marafono should have hung up his gun years ago.

He is of Fijian origin, and on retiring from the SAS after 28 years said he could not face "just sitting about". He joined Executive Outcomes, a South African company offering mercenary services, to fight for the Sierra Leone Government against Revolutionary United Front rebels in 1994.

Often unpaid, their lives at risk, the men of Executive Outcomes lost their contracts with the election of President Kabbah. But Mr Marafono stayed on, contracted directly to Ecomog, the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force fighting the rebels. Ecomog officers admit that they would have lost Freetown last month without Mr Marafono and his comrades — "Juba" Joubert and Neil Ellis, both South Africans, and their Ethiopian engineer, Sindaba. They are the crew of "Bokkie", a M117 helicopter flying seven hours a day to resupply soldiers and give support from the air against anti-aircraft guns used to terrifying effect on West African infantry.

"Without these guys, we would have run out of food and ammo and fled the front. They are amazingly brave. I know they do it for money, but I wouldn't do it for anything," said a Nigerian lieutenant-colonel, himself a veteran.

As a crew, providing the services of Bokkie, they earn about $2,000 (£1,235) an hour — when the money is paid. At the moment, the Bokkie crew are owed for seven months' flying. But memories of recent scenes at Freetown's Connaught Hospital, and the cold-blooded murder of Catholic priests and nuns by the rebels, keep them here. Killers themselves, they have no qualms about dispatching hundreds of their enemies in a hail of fire.

"I love it, it's fantastic," Mr Ellis said about letting loose a "brief burp" from Bokkie's machineguns. He is a veteran of the apartheid-era South African special forces. But the atrocities in Sierra Leone have also brought out the humanity behind the armoured shells of these soldiers of fortune.

"There is nothing in the world that can justify what is happening here. There is no way we can give up on these people. They are my people now. I am one with them," Mr Marafono said.

Jean-Jacques Fuentes, a former pilot with the French special forces, and "Matthew" his co-pilot, who fly reconnaissance missions for Ecomog, have also clearly been horrified by what they have seen in Sierra Leone.

They recently met Lamen Jusa Jaka, a teacher, who sat on the floor in a corridor of the Connaught Hospital, pointing the bloody stumps of what used to be his hands at the heavens.

"I begged them not to do it, I begged them," Mr Jaka said. "But I knew it was no use. I just looked to the sky when they brought the axe down on my wrists. They seemed to be enjoying themselves."

Someone dropped some drugs into a pocket he will never be able to use again and told him to go home.

"Home? Home? Where is home? It is a pile of ashes. I have nothing. I cannot ever scratch myself again, or blow my nose, write, dig — I am finished." He shuffled off, carrying his arms at right angles to the ground.

M Fuentes said: "I can't take any more of this. I really can't. After this job, I'm going to quit, I promise." Himself a veteran who has fought for Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire and Dennis Sassou-Ngeusso in Congo-Brazzaville, he added: "I don't like it one bit — being made to feel human again because some child has had her hands chopped off."

☐ **Journalists seized:** Two European journalists were abducted yesterday by Sierra Leone rebels, who later told one of them to deliver a demand to the authorities.

Patrick Saint Paul of the Paris daily, *Le Figaro*, told reporters that he and Javier Espinosa, of the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*, were seized at Rukupa, near Wellington, an eastern suburb of the capital, Freetown.

The rebels headed with the two into the nearby bush where they later released M Saint Paul. The Frenchman said the rebels had ordered him to pass on their demand for negotiations with the Nigerian-led Ecomog forces.

They said they would not release Señor Espinosa until their demand was broadcast on radio. *(Reuters)*

Fred Marafono, a former SAS man, now fighting as a mercenary for the Government in Freetown

SAM KILEY

A girl whose hands have been cut off waits for treatment at Freetown's Connaught hospital, which has been filled with patients mutilated by Sierra Leone's rebels

WORLD IN BRIEF

More Christians attacked in India

Lucknow: Officials in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh said yesterday that five Christian missionaries were beaten up, a day after an Australian missionary and his two sons were burnt alive by a mob of Hindu zealots. The latest victims of a rash of attacks on the country's minority Christian community occurred on the banks of the River Ganges in Allahabad.

N. Ravi Shankar, the state's Home Secretary, said the five Christians belonged to a missionary organisation called "Faith in Jesus" from Kerala state, where 23 per cent of the population is Christian. The victims were said to have been handing out pamphlets. *(Reuters)* **Leading article, page 19**

Ice fishermen safe

Moscow: Nearly 400 fishermen stranded on ice-floes and swept out to sea off the island of Sakhalin in Russia's Far East returned to land safely. The floes broke away from the coast and drifted for about an hour before the current pulled them back towards the shoreline at Cape Lesnoy, Moscow's Echo Radio reported. Ice fishing, on frozen lakes or rivers, is a winter tradition in Russia, drawing dozens and sometimes hundreds of fishermen to holes drilled in the ice. *(AFP)*

BA man escapes trial

Fairfax, Virginia: A British Airways flight attendant avoided a trial here by pleading no contest (neither admitting nor denying guilt) to assault and battery charges in a colleague's alleged rape. Julian Henry, 47, of Pulborough, West Sussex, was fined $1,000 (£600) for the attack in a hotel room. The prosecutor dropped rape and sexual assault charges in exchange for the plea. The victim, 45, alleged that Henry raped her after several hours' drinking at the hotel. *(AP)*

Stolen Uccello found

Chambéry: Police officers patrolling a parking lot in Aix-les-Bains, southeast France, stumbled on a stolen painting by the Renaissance Florentine artist Paolo Uccello. The 15th-century oil portrait *Unknown Man*, stolen from the Chambéry Museum this month, was found propped up against a bush on Sunday. The museum curator said the thieves were probably unorganised and became scared. *(AFP)*

Nuclear verdict delayed

Bonn: Germany's plan to abandon nuclear power hit a snag when the Government announced it had put off a controversial decision on banning exports of spent nuclear fuel. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, right, was concerned that Germany would have to pay compensation if it scrapped reprocessing deals with French and British plants, a government spokesman said. About one third of German electricity is supplied by nuclear power. *(AP)*

Newspaper chief freed

Harare: Police yesterday released Clive Wilson, the proprietor of *The Standard*, after detaining him for three days over the newspaper's report of an alleged conspiracy to overthrow President Mugabe (Jan Raath writes). Mr Wilson, 62, said he had not been subjected to any ill-treatment by his captors, unlike the editor, Mark Chavunduka, and a reporter, Ray Choto, who were tortured by military and secret police.

90-year-old's fiftieth

Riyadh: A Saudi villager, over 90 years old has taken a 13-year-old for his fiftieth bride. The man from the Jizan region in the south of the kingdom has about 50 children ranging from 12 to 65 years old. It is assumed that the villager, who lives on a diet of dates and yoghurt, must have divorced dozens of women, because Islam allows a Muslim to have a maximum of four wives at any one time. *(AFP)*

Plea to Mandela as gunmen kill another party official

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AN urgent meeting with President Mandela was being sought yesterday by leaders of South Africa's United Democratic Movement (UDM) following the murder of a second party official.

Roelf Meyer, the party's deputy president, said talks with Mr Mandela — who has postponed visits to Uganda, Switzerland and Germany that he was scheduled to begin yesterday — about the killings were imperative.

Police said they were not ruling out a link between the latest murder outside Cape Town and the deaths of 11 people in an attack by gunmen on a funeral vigil at Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal province, hundreds of miles away, on Saturday night.

The murdered mourners were supporters of the African National Congress (ANC) in an area of South Africa where thousands of people have been murdered for their political allegiances.

The attack came only hours after Sifiso Nkabinde, Secretary-General of the UDM and a former ANC warlord, died in a hail of bullets fired at his car in the centre of Richmond.

More than 1,000 police and troops are patrolling the Richmond area amid rising concern that political violence could erupt there and in other parts of South Africa in the run-up to the country's second democratic general election in a few months' time.

Valindlela Matiyase, deputy chairman of the UDM in the Western Cape province, was shot dead when he was called to the front door of his home in the Samora Machel informal settlement outside Philippi, near Cape Town, at dusk on Sunday. Police said two gunmen fired four shots at him.

The UDM was formed in 1997 by Mr Meyer, a former National Party minister who was its chief negotiator in constitutional talks with the ANC, and Bantu Holomisa, a one-time black homeland leader, after his expulsion from the ANC.

The party is claiming big gains in support in the Western Cape province, where the ANC is mounting a fierce campaign to win control from the National Party at the election.

Leading lady regains stage in trial drama

The reluctant return of Monica Lewinsky revives Senate hearing, writes Damian Whitworth

SOMETHING has been missing from President Clinton's trial. Ever to devoted impeachmentologists, it had been a letdown until now. A motley crew of Republican prosecutors had rehearsed the same old arguments and received the same old responses from an only marginally more charismatic bunch of White House lawyers acting for a President who carries on as if nothing untoward is happening.

Then suddenly there was "that woman" again and the personal drama returned.

After testifying in front of Kenneth Starr's grand jury last year, Monica Lewinsky quickly moved out of her apartment in the Watergate building and has subsequently divided her time between her mother's home in New York and her father's in California. She has been spotted occasionally, but generally kept out of sight.

Her return to Washington was not a happy one. She came kicking and screaming. The House of Representatives trial managers had to recruit the obliging Mr Starr to use his full powers as independent prosecutor to ensure that she turned up to answer their pre-trial questions.

One would have understood if she hoped never to return to Washington again. *The New York Times* quoted a friend as saying that she had cried herself to sleep on Friday night as she prepared to relive her story once more.

"It was happening all over again. It was a year ago all over again," said the friend, who added that Ms Lewinsky was "not doing well. It's been a year, and I think she was lulled by the quietness of her life the past few months. She was just a mess this week. Once she learnt she had to go back to Washington, she was really upset."

Ms Lewinsky flew from New York after arriving at the airport to find that Mr Starr's office had reserved a ticket for her but had not paid for it. She had to pay the full first-class fare herself.

In the capital she headed for the plush Mayflower Hotel to find it already besieged by cameras through which she wrestled grim-faced. She took the opportunity to advertise a friend's independent film company by wearing a baseball cap adorned with its logo.

She kept out of sight in her $200 (£120) a night room, before her meeting with prosecutors. She was wearing a black trouser suit and pearls.

The questioning took place in the mahogany-panelled, $5,000-a-night presidential suite where Mr Clinton's late mother, Virginia Kelley, stayed for his inauguration. According to Ms Lewinsky's friend, she said the encounter went well. "I felt really positive about it, but I didn't have anything new to say," Ms Lewinsky is reported as saying.

Plato Cacheris, her lawyer, said his client had been "extremely truthful" but "added nothing to the record that is already sitting before the Senate". She should not be called to testify, Mr Cacheris said, because "all her testimony is fully and completely disclosed".

The three Republican prosecutors who saw her — Asa Hutchinson, Bill McCollum and Ed Bryant — insisted that Ms Lewinksy must be heard in the trial.

"We found her to be a very personable and impressive young woman, and we found that she might be a very helpful witness to the Senate if she is called," Mr McCollum said.

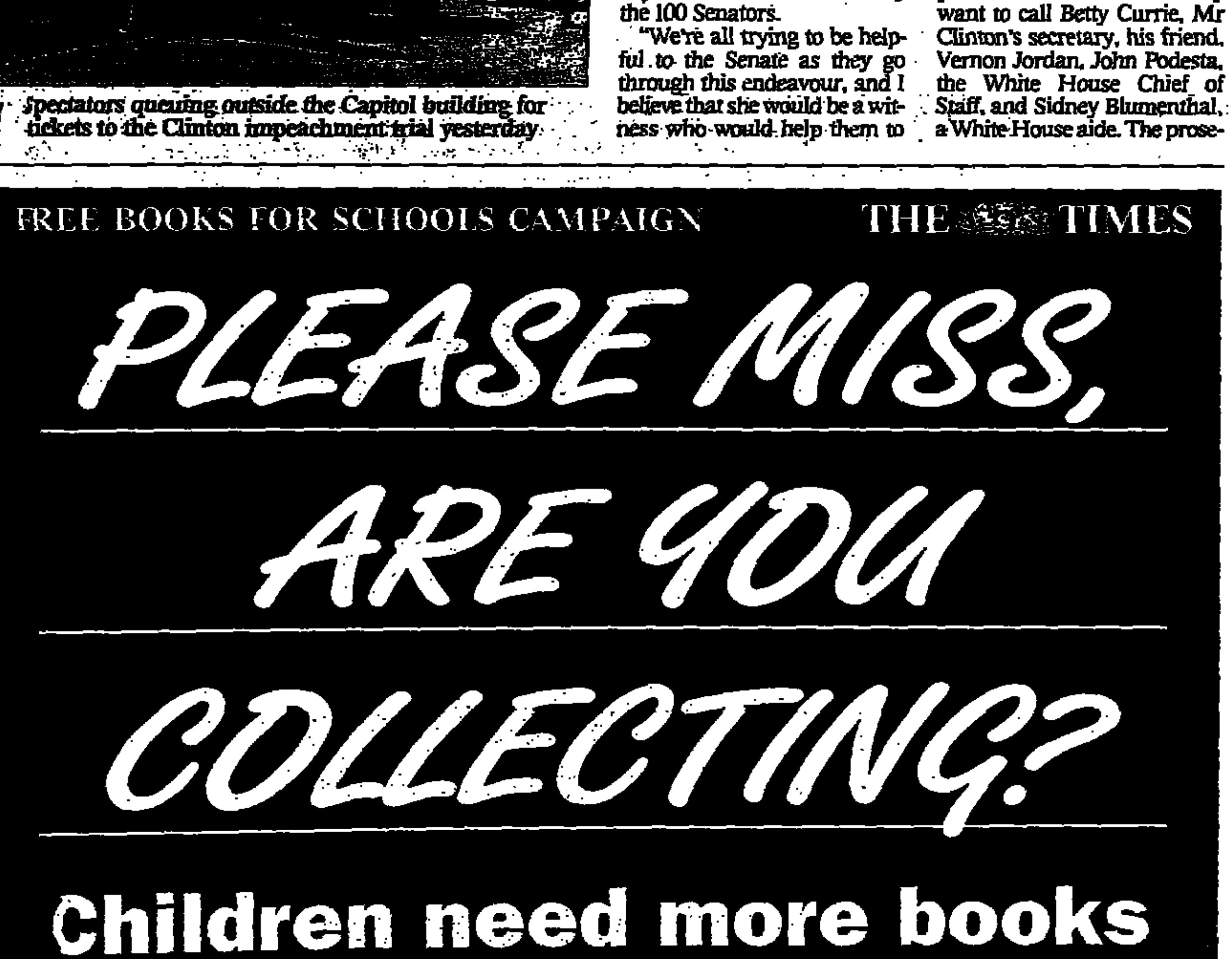
The whole affair could still fizzle out. But a glimpse of Ms Lewinsky was a tantalising reminder that the much-hyped proceedings could yet become a genuine trial of the century if she is made to take the stand.

Two thirds of Americans maintain that they want the show to be ended once and for all. But it is a safe bet that they will be goggle-eyed in front of their televisions if Ms Lewinsky is ever cross-examined by the 100 Senators.

"We're all trying to be helpful to the Senate as they go through this endeavour, and I believe that she would be a witness who would help them to determine the truth," Mr Hutchinson said.

In addition to Ms Lewinsky, prosecutors have said they want to call Betty Currie, Mr Clinton's secretary, his friend, Vernon Jordan, John Podesta, the White House Chief of Staff, and Sidney Blumenthal, a White House aide. The prosecutors are understood to have asked Ms Lewinksy in particular about the gifts that she received from Mr Clinton and efforts that were made to hide them. Ms Lewinsky maintained in her grand jury testimony that she had been asked for them by Mrs Currie but Mr Clinton's secretary said that she retrieved them and kept them under her bed at the instigation of Ms Lewinsky.

This contradiction is at the centre of the allegation that Mr Clinton was behind a move to obstruct justice by trying to hide evidence of his relationship with the former White House trainee.



Spectators queuing outside the Capitol building for tickets to the Clinton impeachment trial yesterday

MARK WILSON / REUTERS

Monica Lewinsky yesterday at Washington's Mayflower Hotel, where she is staying

Clinton basks in papal visit's reflected glory

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IN A priceless photo opportunity, President Clinton is set to meet the Pope late today. The Pope will arrive in St Louis, Missouri, heart of the Midwest, where crowds of up to a million are expected to meet him. Settled by the French, St Louis is a strongly Catholic city whose Archbishop, the Most Rev Justin Rigali, served in the Vatican for nearly three decades.

But despite the rapturous welcome he is expected to receive, the Pope's recent remarks condemning the death penalty, used by more than half of the states, is expected to reopen controversy.

In the Pope's honour, Missouri has given a temporary reprieve to Darrell Mease, a mentally-disturbed Vietnam veteran on death row for the past decade for a triple murder. He was due to be put to death tonight but his execution has been postponed until February 10.

Bill McClellan, a columnist on the *St Louis Post-Dispatch*, yesterday declared that the Pope "couldn't get elected dog-catcher in this country". His anti-abortion views offended Democrats, he said, while his concern for the poor offended Republicans. *The Wall Street Journal* has described the Pope's economic policies as "warmed-over Marxism". He has criticised the US for "materialism and consumerism".

The Pope flew to St Louis fresh from a three-day trip to Mexico. It is traditional for the President to greet the Pope on arrival in the US.

The Pope prepares to hold Mass in Mexico

Arguments prove a trial to spell out

Washington: One of the more intriguing aspects of President Clinton's impeachment trial has been the poor standard of spelling (writes Damian Whitworth).

It started with the souvenir pens presented to each senator in order to sign the pledge to remain impartial during the trial. They were inscribed with "Untied States Senator" and quickly became collectors' items. Then followed the publication of Republican briefs for the trial — of someone called President "Cinton". It has been all downhill from there.

Barely a session of the trial goes by without glaring errors appearing on giant cards printed by opposing sides to demonstrate key points in their case from the well of the Senate chamber. Senators, who have a reputation for fastidiousness in such matters, tutted at the introduction of a "calender", and were somewhat puzzled by a reference to "bulgary". The word was used to describe the act of breaking into another person's property.

Heads were scratched when Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, brought farmyards and hiking into the proceedings in a public letter which referred to the House "mangers" who are running the impeachment "trail".

The Republicans so far appear less literate than the White House, although Mr Clinton's lawyers did note that the whole affair was a "mind field". No one was sure if this was an error.

The agony of psoriasis

Katherine Duncan-Jones has defeated the virulent condition that made her hands and feet bleed

JUSTIN SUTCLIFFE

Katherine Duncan-Jones: "I kept thinking of the Little Mermaid, who was permitted to exchange her fishtail for legs at the price of feeling that she was treading on knives"

At the end of August 1996 both my daughters left home to take up graduate scholarships in America. I knew that they would probably never again spend extended periods in my house, but persuaded myself that I had "coping strategies" well in place. Within days of their departure, I embarked on a more than usually expensive holiday, a Hellenic cruise. I calculated that during the course of this holiday I would become really keen to get back, even to an empty home, and to resume my absorbing work on *Shakespeare's Sonnets*.

This was indeed the case, and I returned to much enjoyable busy-ness, not consciously marred by what I took to be a moderately virulent outbreak of athlete's foot caused by too many visits to my swimming club in a prep school, where term began in early September. After a week or three I went to my GP and told her I thought I had athlete's foot. Amid pleasant chat of this and that, she sat at her computer and prescribed some antifungal cream. I warned one or two fellow members of the swimming club that there might be infections around in the women's changing room, used at other times of day by "away" rugby teams of little boys.

My spirits were slightly dampened, as autumn and a new academic year set in, by a sense that as a responsible citizen I should cease to visit the swimming pool — I normally went three times a week — for fear of infecting others. I hit on what I thought a rather brilliant solution: I bought rubber foot coverings and went swimming in them a couple of times, hoping to avoid passing the infection on, but was surprised to discover what a part toes play in swimming, and how impeding it is to have the feet encased in latex. Perhaps this experience gave me some empathy with the condom-wearing sex.

The only real solution seemed to be to abandon swimming, especially since the athlete's foot was, if anything, more virulent, despite a second instalment of antifungal cream, and had now spread to the right foot as well. I also noticed that, immersed in the morning paper, I seemed clumsily to have cut some flaps of skin loose on the palm of my right hand while peeling my apple and pear with a sharp knife at breakfast. However, being extremely busy, as October and November advanced, with teaching, lecturing and writing the introduction to my edition of the Sonnets, I didn't devote much thought to any of this, though I did buy lots of hypoallergenic plasters to keep my cracking and bleeding soles more or less in one piece. My morning and bedtime routines — peeling off the day's plasters and applying a fresh set, with what seemed like great cardboard-like rafts of skin coming off — became increasingly disgusting.

My doctor changed her tune, and decided that either it never had been athlete's foot or that the athlete's foot was secondary to some other skin problem. She set things in train for an appointment with an NHS dermatologist, although she was fairly sure that what I had would eventually be diagnosed as "acute dermatitis" — doctors' Greek for bad skin trouble.

She recommended that I wear cork insoles. With terrifying speed, lacking my habitual exercise, I became alarmingly lame and unfit. I kept thinking of Hans Christian Andersen's *Little Mermaid*, who was permitted to exchange her fishtail for human legs only at the price of feeling that with every step she was treading on knives. Normally an early riser, I took to lying in bed in a state of acute apprehension, dreading the pain when I put my bleeding feet to the floor, and not at all sure I could face the small amount of walking required to get me downstairs, and to work. After a few minutes I usually became inured to the pain, especially once I had strapped up my cracked, bleeding feet with rolls of the sticking plaster I was now using, but I did make careful calculations of the least amount of walking I could get away with, and became quite stressed if I had to walk any farther. Meanwhile, the skin on my hands was flapping off in large pieces, and I dreaded meeting anyone who might shake my hand and feel its horny edges. My hands, like my feet, were now so cracked at the centre of the palm that sometimes they bled slightly. I began jokingly to refer to the condition as "my stigmata", adding that whatever had caused it, it certainly couldn't be sanctity.

By December I was tottering from foot to foot in pain. My left foot was still the worse, however, and my doctor alarmed me with a bit of medical humour, saying: "We don't want you to lose it." She prescribed powerful steroid cream — across-the-counter stuff had done little — and suggested that I wrap my hands and feet in plastic bags. I was glad that I had no current bed companion to see or feel my wrapped extremities. My elder daughter, back for Christmas, fell about laughing at the sight of my nocturnal plastications. Sometimes I kept my feet wrapped and anointed during the day as well as at night, concealed with socks and trousers, and hoped that no one would see the bulging at my ankles or hear the occasional susurrations of the plastic. By mid-December, when I went to give a lecture in Switzerland, I had become a steroid junkie.

I was embarrassed, in a nice Swiss hotel room, to find no way of dressing and undressing without scattering heaps of dead skin on the carpet. In the new year, I tried to cut down on the steroids. My feet were ever so slightly better, my hands a lot worse, but there was no doubt that all four extremities were madly and painfully exfoliating all the time. Night after night, in a warm bath, I would try to rub them clear of dead skin flaps, hoping they would be nice and soft the next day, but new flaps and cracks appeared in no time. Finally, in March, I saw the dermatologist, and hand and foot psoriasis was diagnosed — a condition rare enough to be unfamiliar to many GPs, but common enough for the Oxfordshire Health Authority to have invested in ultraviolet light does for treatment of the condition. During the summer of 1997, I had a 12-week series of sessions with ultraviolet light and this treatment, combined with a continual applying of moisturising and emollient creams, brought my feet, at least, to a better condition than they had been in for years.

The connection between mind, consciousness and body is notoriously intimate and inscrutable. In *Feet of Clay* (1996), Anthony Storr traces a recurring pattern of events in which an individual who has undergone severe illness or depression emerges from it convinced that he can now impart spiritual insight and detailed guidance to mankind on how life should be lived. Many celebrated "gurus" such as St Ignatius, Jung and Gurdjieff have undergone such mind-changing illnesses, and have persuaded large numbers of followers of the universal value of the insights they gained during them.

In my case, the pattern of events has been reversed: I have been led to rationalism rather than mysticism. I am less certain than ever that I have any belief of my own, let alone anything of value to impart to others. Rather than feeling, like St Paul, that "I know that I bear in my own body the marks of the Lord Jesus", I now meditate with sympathy but considerable cynicism on the agonising lives of such celebrated stigmatics as St Paul or Padre Pio. Spending long periods in dark cells meditating on one's own sin and unworthiness in the sight of the Almighty must be the perfect recipe for exacerbating psoriasis, a stress-related disorder of the immune system that is aggravated by lack of sunlight. Another site where psoriatic patches can break out badly is round the midriff, leading to "hole in the side" wounds. For a short time in October 1996, I had this symptom, too.

Until 1997 I was a regular churchgoer. Despite a strong inclination towards pantheism, I felt myself to be sustained and nourished at some deep level by Christian ritual and worship. Since more or less recovering from psoriasis, I find that whatever frail thread it was that connected me with institutional religion has snapped. As an Anglican I had never been required to take such saintly miracles as the stigmata particularly seriously. Still, the close parallels between this form of psoriasis and Christ's wounds might have led me to a deeper faith. In practice, I find that my healed and anointed feet no longer carry me into places of worship.

- *This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in* The London Review of Books.

I am not mad, touch wood

Obsessive behaviour is often just a means of relieving stress, as **Miranda Ingram** discovers

Molly Passmore is a perfectly intelligent woman, the family breadwinner and mother of two small children. Every time she gets into her car she has to touch wood, inside her head at least, to ensure a safe journey. "It is a particular piece of wood, in a particular place, on a certain Welsh mountainside," the media professional explains.

"I have not only to touch it, mentally, but get the feel of the wood under my fingertips right. Sometimes this involves going over it several times. If I have a passenger I can't talk to them till I've done it — hopefully, they just think I'm a bit distracted. Other times the kids ask 'When are we going to move, Mum?' I can hardly tell them their mother is a complete nutter who's busy touching wood in her head so that we don't have an accident."

Jenny Charles, a solicitor, pats doors three times — just under the handle, with her right hand, after closing them — which can be a bit of a trial when there are clients in the room. "I stand so I'm hiding the door while I do it and just hope they don't notice," she says. "A couple of times I have tried not doing it but I can't concentrate on my work, or what they are saying, and have to make an excuse to go in and out of the door again and do it properly."

Nadine Wild also pats, but it is drawers for her. "Even when they are obviously closed, I have to pat them until they *feel* closed," she says. "It's completely crazy."

Wild, an academic at the top of her profession, also has to step over joins in the carpet, with the correct foot forward, or go back and do it again if she doesn't get it right. Now she has started on taps. "It's definitely getting worse as I'm getting older," Wild says. "Now I have to put a hand on each tap and twist until they turn off fully in symmetry. And I have to turn locks in doors numerous times until the click feels right. It drives my husband crazy. He says it's spooky having this apparently intelligent woman endlessly clicking all the locks at night."

In all cases, the women agree that while the obsessions are irritating, they dare not fail to do them: doom will surely follow if the ritual is not observed. "It drives me mad that I'm doing it," says Passmore, "but I daren't risk not doing it. What if we had a crash?"

Wild cannot risk abandoning the lock ritual, but was horrified recently to catch her four-year-old son patting drawers. "I couldn't bear it when I saw his little hands following the same absurd pattern as mine. I thought 'God, what have I done? I've turned him crazy, too'."

Crazy or certifiable? Scratch the surface and almost everyone seems to have a private obsession: sipping drinks to the count of three, tapping a boiled egg seven times, lining up pens and pencils in a certain order, or stepping on and off the footpath before crossing. Should we be worried? Is this the first step into the asylum?

"Not at all," says Professor Peter Fonagy, of the department of psychoanalysis at University College London. "Firstly this sort of behaviour, which is extremely widespread and not restricted to women, is quite separate from full-blown compulsive obsessive disorder, which is a very serious illness. It is to do with your personality type, mostly, and to a certain extent with your social inheritance — background."

Certainly the women interviewed by *The Times* recalled watching similar behaviour in their parents — obsessive tidiness, lining up the salt and pepper — and see it also in their siblings.

"On a certain level we are all like children," Fonagy says. "It is a state called magical phenomenalism whereby you believe that if you do X then Y will happen, even if you know perfectly well, intellectually, that there is no connection.

"Like standing on the platform trying to will the next train to be the Richmond train. You think that if you look at the board in the right way for the right length of time you can make the next train be the right train. Children have this very powerfully and perfectly normally, and most of us, when we are under a lot of stress, revert to childish ways of thinking.

"I had an undergraduate patient who sincerely believed that he would do OK in his finals as long as he didn't change his underwear in the three weeks running up to the exams, even though he knew perfectly well that the state of his underwear couldn't possibly influence questions set weeks before.

"When we are frightened or nervous we quite often start to believe in trivial things. This sort of behaviour is analogous to superstition, or carrying mascots, for example. Each person has to find their own way of coping — one person might fidget, another develops a phobia and a third feels sick."

If you are the personality type lined up for repetitive lock-turning, then that is just the way you cope, he says, even if it might not be the most efficient solution. It gets worse when there is an area of your life that you feel you are not fully in control of or coping with. Patting the door gives you the comfort of being in control of something.

"If you're going through a particularly obsessive patch," Fonagy says, "it is probably a message to yourself that an area of your life needs sorting out — you're postponing a decision, your elderly mother is getting you down, you've got problems at work. Stop worrying about the obsession itself and look at the rest of your life."

He says that indulging in secret door-patting or tap-turning rituals does not mean you are either more, or less, likely than anyone else to develop a serious clinical disorder. "In fact," Fonagy concludes, "people who behave like this are usually pretty sound people — good at their work, reliable and conscientious."

When a nosebleed becomes a danger

MEDICINE CHEST
DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

KING'S LYNN in Norfolk was Royalist in the Civil War, and the local people seem never to have lost this tendency. They delight in welcoming the Royal Family when they are installed at Sandringham and have a particular affection for Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, dating from when King George VI was alive and the Royal Family spent so much time there together.

It is a pity, therefore, that her new year visits seem to coincide with the occasional medical emergency. This time last year, the Queen Mother fractured her femur while visiting the stables; this year she has had a severe nosebleed, which needed attention at the local NHS hospital.

A nosebleed, or epistaxis "as we doctors call it" (to use *Private Eye*'s phraseology), does not sound very sinister and is not in the same league as the repair of a fractured femur. However, a nosebleed, particularly in an older person, can be a true medical emergency. Stopping it may require the presence of an experienced ear, nose and throat surgeon and also, on occasion, a skilled radiologist to find the bleeding point.

Most nosebleeds, such as those suffered by young children through the biffs and bangs of playground life or too much exploration with their fingers (known medically as epistaxis digitorum), are easy to stop. The sufferer should sit upright with the head inclined slightly forward, and grasp the nose between finger and thumb at the junction of the soft and hard parts. Squeezing the nose at this point compresses Kiesselbach's plexus of blood vessels, which are situated in Little's area (Kiesselbach and Little were 19th-century surgeons). The pressure should be maintained for at least ten minutes. When it is released, in most cases bleeding will have stopped.

If this first-aid measure does not work, the anterior portion of the nose may have to be packed with gauze. This presents no great problem. In my youth, one-inch gauze ribbon saturated with BIPP (bismuth, iodoform and paraffin paste) — devised by Lord Lister and later used in the First World War for packing wounds — could be left in position for hours or even days without becoming unpleasant. Usually, this stanched the bleeding. More recently, films of an expanding foam, Merocel, are inserted into the nose. This absorbs the blood, expands and exerts pressure on any of the bleeding Kiesselbach's vessels. If this is unsuccessful, the bleeding point may be cauterised.

Malcolm Keene, a consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, says that the method of treating nosebleeds is determined by their severity. Most can be dealt with by a first-aid worker, the next stage up needs a doctor and the worst nosebleeds can pose quite a problem for the most experienced surgeon. In particular, nosebleeds in older people who have arteriosclerosis — hardening of the arteries — can cause difficulties.

The older the patient, the more likely is the nosebleed to be torrential — and once it is torrential, finding the source of the torrent requires considerable skill. In older patients, too, the blood is likely to come from a long way back in the nose and is often the result of the rupture of a branch of the sphenopalatine artery, particularly if the patient's arteries are hardened and weakened by age and the blood pressure is raised.

The elderly, too, frequently take aspirin or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs to counteract arthritis. These drugs also make bleeding more profuse. Many of us like to think that the Queen Mother's remarkable resilience and intellectual sharpness are in part a result of the recognition of the advantages of alcohol in moderation — unfortunately, however useful this is in stopping the blood clotting in the coronary arteries, it may also increase a tendency to bleed.

Bleeding from the back of the nose from a ruptured branch of the sphenopalatine artery will probably need specialist attention. Only when people remember the "nose trick" — the spluttering of a drink through the nose when choking or laughing — do they remember the connection between nose and mouth. In the past a gauze pad was introduced through the mouth and pulled into position at the back of the nose. Now an expandable balloon, such as is found on a Foley's catheter, is introduced in the same way. Once the balloon is in position, it is inflated with air and when the pressure of the balloon is greater than the blood pressure, bleeding from the artery stops. Rarely, a major artery needs tying.

Two warnings: a persistent, watery, bloodstained discharge from one nostril may be an early sign of a nasal tumour and needs expert investigation. Also, patients with recurrent nosebleeds should have a blood count to exclude haematological disease.

Blowing the whistle on the office fraudsters

Most of us will at some time end up stealing from our employers. **Jon Ashworth** reports on how we have become a nation of petty criminals

Three out of four employees in Britain steal from their employers, according to a disturbing new study of practices in the workplace. Middlemanagers, often long-servers are among the chief culprits since they have the best understanding of how to cheat their company and cover their tracks.

The University of Nottingham Business School was commissioned to write a report on workplace fraud by Business Defene Europe, a consultant on managing fraud risk. It found that fraud tends to be more widespread among middle managers, but says most people are corruptible.

Paul Barnes, the report's author, says: "A quarter of all people will always steal, and two in four will steal if the circumstances present themselves. We've all got our price."

Independent research by *The Times* suggests that fraud in the office is becoming a huge problem for British companies, costing billions of pounds a year. It ranges from "petty" fiddling of expenses and personal telephone calls to systematic plundering of accounts, often over several years. The perpetrators are often a company's most trusted and valued employees.

Faced with the evidence, employers are starting to clamp down. Legislation aimed at protecting whistle-blowers at work seems certain to speed the process. Employees who regularly work late and never take holidays may come under suspicion.

The weakening UK economy will hasten the process, because fraudsters find it harder to cover their tracks as companies tighten procedures. The perpetrators panic and take bigger risks. Weak controls and management indifference have enabled fraud at work to flourish since the recession of the early 1990s. Accountants are increasingly being called in to put anti-fraud systems in place. "It is a desperate problem," says Mark Tantam, head of fraud management services at Deloitte & Touche, "and it will get more desperate as recession bites. People will feel, well, I have no loyalty to my employer because tomorrow I'll be sacked."

He believes the scale of fraud is even greater than the Nottingham report suggests. "I've always felt that all of us have the propensity to commit a fraud if we are under such pressure that fraud was the easiest way out," he says.

> In nearly all cases colleagues could tell something was amiss

"It's not like murder. It's something which is a grey area where people feel, if I had nothing, if my children were starving, if my husband was ill, I would take the chance."

Companies lose a small fortune each year to so-called "petty fraud" — *personal* telephone calls, taking office stationery, fiddling expenses, and even downloading pornography from the Internet in hotel rooms then charging it back as business telephone expenses.

The reason this is tolerated is because the costs of controlling it outweigh the benefits. Companies sacrifice about 1 per cent of their annual sales to petty pilfering — which, for a major company, could cost as much as £70 million a year. The collective cost to British companies is billions of pounds.

More of a concern are the serial fraudsters — individuals who take kickbacks on major contracts or who fiddle the books to meet their performance targets.

David Sherwin, head of fraud investigations at Ernst & Young, says: "Once an employee has won the trust of senior management they become almost untouchable. When something comes up, no one challenges them for fear of upsetting the boat."

One case involved an office manager responsible for paying freelance contributors. He arranged for the money to be paid electronically to his own bank account each month. If anyone rang up, he would say there had been a mistake and send them a cheque drawn on a company account. This went on for ten years and was only uncovered when he died. He had siphoned off more than £100,000. It should have been obvious: he had three children at private school and regularly bought new cars — all on a salary of £20,000.

People resort to fraud to fund addictions — drugs, alcohol and gambling — or to pay for a lavish lifestyle.

Alex Plavsic, a fraud investigation partner with KPMG, says: "There are triggers that make people commit fraud. They run into personal problems — they run out of cash, get divorced, their house burns down. Often, the people we interview are suicidal. Many have breakdowns."

Mark Tantam adds: "Whole lives are destroyed by it. Families break up. What's so sad is that it is either because of a personal problem — drinking or gambling — or because they want to compensate for some change they or their family are going through.

"If challenged they say that it's a rich wife or husband, or an insurance policy maturing. Tell-tale signs include not having a holiday, not allowing anyone to interfere with their work, an autocratic regime, erratic time-keeping, excessive phone calls, lots of entertainment. These signs can be completely bogus, but we always find that, in all investigations, the people around the fraudster knew what was going on. They can see the change in behaviour."

Most frauds are uncovered because someone speaks out, but fear or recrimination puts many off. Inform on a manager who survives and life may become miserable. The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998, dubbed the "whistle-blower's charter", aims to encourage people to speak out without fear. Only about 10 per cent of British companies have employee hotlines.

Plavsic says: "Of the investigations I've done in the past seven years, about 60-70 per cent of fraud cases have been committed by employees and about the same proportion have been reported by other employees. You need to be wary of your employees, but you also need to treat them appropriately because they are your eyes and ears."

Often the evidence is there for all to see. Emma Codd, head of business intelligence services at Deloitte & Touche, says: "We had one finance director, a woman with one O level, who was obviously living beyond her means — a Ferrari, expensive holidays. When you do an employee-screening, you should carry out a lifestyle check — is someone flashing money around, or in financial problems, no finance on the car? There is so much you can see from doing standard record checks."

When it comes to computers, think again if you believe that pushing the delete key will erase evidence. Your computer or laptop is often the prize trophy in any fraud investigation. Techno-sleuths can recreate the last ten changes made on a computer and retrieve incriminating fragments from the hard drive. Investigators typically come in pretending to be IT technicians and take a copy of the computer's hard disk. Letters, e-mails and records of print outs can be matched to fax and telephone logs.

Accountants and the police have sophisticated tools at their disposal. EYTracer, developed by Ernst & Young, uses a computerised cash-tracing model to sift through huge numbers of transactions. In one case, a company suspected that it was being defrauded, but did not know where to begin.

EYTracer then downloaded 600,000 transactions going back six years. Within a day, the search had been narrowed down to one account. By the end of the week, they had cracked the fraud. An employee had set up a bogus supplier, paying out cheques, assuming that no one would notice.

THE KOBAL COLLECTION

Pilferer at work: three out of four employees will steal, costing British companies billions of pounds each year

TELL-TALE SIGNS

Time and again, employers fail to spot the danger signs that fraudsters are at work in an organisation. Here are ten of the most common:

- Never taking a holiday. Working excessive hours. Working at weekends. Fraudsters need to be around to cover their tracks.
- Extravagant lifestyle. Expensive new car, children educated at private school, large house. These are usually explained away as newly inherited wealth.
- Financial problems. An expensive divorce, medical bills for an ill relative, gambling debts, paying for a mistress.
- Repeatedly passed over for promotion. Resentment often fuels fraudulent intent.
- Always managing to produce good results when others in a similar position are struggling to meet their targets.
- Flouting rules and regulations. A person involved in fraud will often take action on his own, or will direct a subordinate to bend or break the rules.
- Regularly receiving generous gifts or hospitality from a supplier. This suggests that "kickbacks" might be being paid in return for favouring a particular source of business.
- Attracting complaints from colleagues or customers. This often hints at wider wrongdoing.
- Autocratic style. Using anger, sarcasm and criticism to deter subordinates from asking too many questions.

More than simply black and white

Michael Gove on the Lawrence inquiry and a new McCarthyism

When it was published, Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* was an impressionistic landscape of America. It may now have become a mirror of Britain. The New York author illuminated a city in neurosis, with race distorting reason. I fear that we may be succumbing to the same neurosis.

Later this week the Home Secretary will receive the report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Jack Straw's response will be made in charged circumstances. There is a widespread desire to see a conclusion reached which will satisfy Stephen Lawrence's parents. But the terms on which the inquiry has been conducted give rise to legitimate doubts that the right lessons will be learnt.

It is impossible to consider the murder of Stephen without feeling both admiration and anger. The dignified bearing of Neville and Doreen Lawrence, their quiet persistence in the pursuit of justice and their determination that some good should spring from unspeakable evil, are qualities that compel admiration. The knowledge that Stephen's murderers are still abroad quickens the blood to anger. That anger is only swelled by the catalogue of errors which marred the investigation.

It is not easy, therefore, to question whether justice, which has been denied the Lawrences, has been best served by the inquiry for which they campaigned. Just as questioning the wisdom of handgun legislation after the Dunblane killings seemed an act of insensitivity, so raising questions about this inquiry may seem to demean the Lawrences' grief. That is not my intention. The Lawrences deserve to see justice done. But the inquiry has too much of the whiff of Salem to leave the unbiased anything but uneasy.

Even before proceedings began the witchfinder's finger was flexing. On the eve of the inquiry, *The Observer* ran a story alleging that the chairman, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, was "insensitive" to racial issues. The accusations were diplomatically dealt with, but a sour note had been struck.

On one level, Sir William had been put on warning that his conduct would be scrutinised by an audience suspicious of his hidden prejudices. Indeed, during the inquiry he halted questioning of Mrs Lawrence intended to explore her attitudes to the police.

On a deeper level, the manner in which the inquiry would be viewed was skewed. A proper emphasis on judicial impartiality had been overlaid by ideological considerations. It is a practice, sadly, commonplace in America, where the judicial process has become dangerously politicised. The shade of the courthouse where O.J. Simpson was tried now hung over the proceedings.

The inquiry itself also recalled another unhappy episode in American justice. The lawyers for the Lawrences seemed, at moments, to have served their apprenticeship under Joseph McCarthy. Just as the senator brought a blunderbuss to his hearings, so the Lawrences' lawyers, led by Michael Mansfield, QC, deployed the charge of racism with indiscriminate zeal.

The shabby treatment of one individual stands out. The first policeman on the scene after Stephen was attacked was an off-duty officer, who was returning from a church meeting. He did not know that Stephen had been stabbed, indeed, Stephen's friend Duwayne Brooks believed that the assailants had used an iron bar. The officer did not seek to move Stephen, recognising that he lay in the recovery position. Only when an ambulance arrived was the extent of Stephen's bleeding apparent.

This officer, whose church was racially mixed and whose Christian fellow-feeling for all races had never been doubted before, was accused of standing idly by because he did not wish "to get his hands dirty with black blood". His conduct was questioned by the Lawrence team. And yet this same officer had draped his car blanket over Stephen and recovered it, after the ambulance arrived. Was that the action of a man who scorned to touch black blood? How can genuine evils be properly addressed when Good Samaritans are treated like this?

And how can racism be properly tackled when the accusation is flung not just at individuals, but at an institution? When the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, attended the inquiry he was asked, repeatedly, to concede that his force was "institutionally racist". Sir Paul has never tried to deny there is racism in his force, indeed he pledged to deal with the problem on taking office. There is room for legitimate debate about how effectively he has dealt with the question. But that debate is disfigured by the insistence that Sir Paul concedes the principle of collective guilt, instead of rooting out individual wickedness.

Some institutions are explicitly racist — from the Dutch Reform Church to the British National Party. But what does the term mean when applied to the Metropolitan Police? Is the bobby's helmet the modern equivalent of a Klansman's hood?

Do those who talk of institutional racism not realise that they are falling into the same error as racists, making sweeping assumptions about groups instead of forming reasoned judgments about individuals? Is it not better to forge a sense of common purpose in the fight against prejudice, rather than seeking to divide society from its protectors?

Mr Mansfield and the Lawrences' solicitor, Imran Khan, are both radical socialists. It would be tempting to conclude that their approach to the inquiry springs from their commitment to ideology rather than the truth, distaste for the police rather than love of justice. But that would be to fall into the same trap as them, to tar with the broad brush rather than bring the searchlight properly to bear.

Michael Gove

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A man of true Resolution

Amid the official tributes, personal memories of a remarkable Admiral of the Fleet

When a retired top-brass Service chief dies in his late seventies, full of honours, the obvious and decorous things are done. Obituaries recall his distinctions in war and peace, and in a last paragraph the retirement years are mentioned: trustee of this and that, expert on whatever. Decent, passionless tributes are paid and another public life is over.

I have been staring all morning at just such obituaries, sober milestones at the point where a finished life fades tidily into history. And somehow they will not do. For Admiral Lord Lewin — Terry Lewin — has died; and though he was pushing 80, and I had known him for barely five years, the sense of outraged loss will not fade. "Terry being ill and dying," said a far younger friend indignantly, "is just so bloody out of character."

There must be an unsuspected number of people who feel the same. Because of this, and because one of Lewin's last projects is nearing fruition at Greenwich, indulge me for a few minutes while I try to convey this vivid man, and why his departure feels as if a firework display had prematurely ended.

The obituaries tell the naval story: of the 18-year-old thrown straight into war as a midshipman in the Mediterranean, the young lieutenant mentioned in dispatches and awarded the DSC. He served in Arctic and Malta convoys and Channel actions before D-Day. In command after the war, he modernised the rum ration into beer, and navigated a changing, shrinking the Navy with the rare distinction of making no enemies. His role as Chief of Defence Staff in the Thatcher War Cabinet is historic: even Falklands sceptics such as me admire the steadiness and professionalism with which he masterminded that all-but-impossible war.

But never mind all that stuff. He did not bore on about it, remarking only that being First Sea Lord was the "dullest job in the Navy". All ranks, speaking of him, tend to agree that there was never a harrumph or a tantrum in the man, however senior or stressed. "He was never angry", says Rear-Admiral Richard Hill, his biographer and sometime subordinate. " He never raised his voice. His technique was to make you feel that you never wanted to let him down."

His last ship, as it were, was the National Maritime Museum, where he was chairman for eight years to 1995. There, as a recent trustee, I first met him, and last saw him in the autumn in a hard hat, clambering round the construction site of the new Neptune Court. This is the £20 million development which he initiated, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (whose functionaries, like many former ministers and civil servants, still flinch at the memory of the fusillade of Lewin faxes which greeted any obstruction). This week, from the director's office to the front desk, the museum mourns him with an almost shocking sincerity.

He saw it through storms, like the row over the *Titanic* exhibition, in which he calmly thought his position through and then stood firm and tranquil in the face of ill-informed ranting. He steered towards a new century with a style which combined a taste for innovation with a conviction that maritime history is vital to British identity. At 70 years old, he pushed things forward like a man half his age.

Richard Ormond, the director, says: "He had a wonderfully clear sense of history: it was in his bloodstream and he felt that, without historical resonance, you lack a dimension. He would stride into the museum and say: 'Do you know what happened 150 years ago today?' He was passionate about the bookshop and getting people to read. But he also knew that history has to be presented anew to each generation."

He was entirely at home not only with Nelson and Cook and his own 20th Century Seapower gallery, but with the more controversial plans of the renewed museum which, enragingly, he now will not see: the Greenpeace pod, the ecology and sea science, the modern sculptures and the challenging acknowledgement of slavery and the Opium Wars.

Ormond and his deputy, Roger Knight, mourning yesterday, spoke of the way that the septuagenarian former First Sea Lord became a museum professional. "He led from the front, very firm, very fluent, with immense and humane understanding. When we were wrestling with the *Titanic* issue someone said 'You are a man of great certainty, aren't you?' and he said 'Thank you. I think I am'."

Reading back, I still have not captured the vividness. I first met him at the opening of the Cook Exhibition, and lightly said that I really knew very little about Captain Cook. "Right!" said the chairman, in tones I can hear now; and led me round, talking, followed by a trail of eavesdroppers.

It was one of the best half-hours I ever had. Today, as I read his catalogue preface about that other humane and visionary seafarer, James Cook, the excitement kicks back to the surface, and the words Endeavour and Resolution take on a meaning far beyond the names of Cook's ships. They resonate, as he intended them to, through all human history and on into the future. Nor shall I forget hearing him at the Seawords literary festival reading a passage from Cook's log. He closed the book at the end of a narrow escape on the perilous Southern *terra incognita*, grinned, glanced around the riveted audience and added a long, delighted "Phew!".

In his own travels he visited every point Cook touched 200 years ago; in Dusky Bay, New Zealand, he found the remains of the two trees *Endeavour* tied up to.

There is a portrait of him by John Wonnacott, finished a few months ago. Go and see it some time: it is an epic canvas, 11ft tall, showing the admiral glancing up at the ceiling of the Painted Hall at Greenwich where Nelson lay in state. Wren's Royal Naval College meant a great deal to him, and some of his last energies were spent firing off more faxes to newspapers and journalists, in the battle against the drooling obtuseness of governments which cannot grasp what a treasure it is, and what use it could have been put to in the service of wider understanding of our maritime and naval heritage.

Even so, it was the devil of a job for the painter and the trustees to persuade Admiral Lord Lewin to pose in uniform. "I've left the Navy now," he would protest, turning up yet again in a lounge suit. Eventually he agreed, but even then, says the painter, he brought the wrong tie. I spoke to John Wonnacott yesterday, and from his brief but intense painter's dealings he offered a strong image of Terry Lewin. "He threw himself into everything. While we worked there would be a string of what he called Useless Information. Once we roared up the hill to the Observatory — he moved at a great speed — and he taught me all about the Harrison clocks. I think he loved the museum, in the end, as much as he loved the Navy. He'd done so much, had such enthusiasm for so many things, but in his last few days he took the trouble to ring me about another commission I'm doing, though he could only manage a few sentences. I've never met any chap like him, ever."

Nor have I. When the diagnosis of inoperable cancer was made, early in December and out of the blue, he had been asked to appear in a discussion programme talking with the Duke of Edinburgh about the new galleries. We did it without him, and I sent a tape to the hospital. A while later, when he had come home to be nursed by his close-knit family, the telephone rang. It was Terry Lewin himself, giving cheerful approval to the programme. We live near by; I asked whether he wanted any audio tapes to pass the time.

"No, far too busy. I've got Richard Hill here all day working on the biography. Tell everyone it's fine: family here, spirits high, hoping for a miracle!"

Then he said goodbye. Full of endeavour and of resolution, right to the last. I can't believe he's gone.

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Quite simply, the nonsense has gone far enough. Daily, the terror gangs mutilate and torture. Northern Ireland is descending into a moral cesspit

Sean O'Callaghan

A new reign of terror and intimidation has descended on Northern Ireland. It afflicts those large areas that fall under the control of the "military representatives" of the loyalist and republican parties — Sinn Fein, the Ulster Democratic Party and the Progressive Unionist Party. We would know little of this if it were not for Families Against Intimidation and Terror, an heroic group of human rights activists who have risked their lives to expose thuggery.

We are led to believe that the IRA, UVF and UDA are observing ceasefires. This is palpable nonsense and everyone in Northern Ireland, outside the Cinderella-land that is the Northern Ireland Office, knows it.

Punishment beatings — a euphemism for mutilation, torture and intimidation — have increased dramatically in recent months as these organisations have imposed their control on the communities they purport to represent. No one in the Northern Ireland Office, least of all the Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam, seems much concerned. The attitude seems to be: while terrorism is confined to the ghettos, why worry?

The sheer absence of morality, the knee-bending to appeasement and a view that to say nothing and do nothing will somehow ensure the survival of the Good Friday agreement — is repugnant. Furthermore, it will fatally undermine the peace process.

Gerry Adams, David Ervine and Gary McMichael must be told by the Prime Minister (not the Secretary of State, whom they regard as full of hot air) that one more act of violence by the organisations they represent will bring prisoner releases to a halt and see them expelled from the process until they accept and implement the Mitchell principles of non-violence.

Quite simply, the nonsense has gone far enough. Daily, the terror gangs mutilate and torture. Families are forced into exile, racketeering, criminality and drug-dealing are widespread. Northern Ireland is descending into a moral cesspit. Is this what the Good Friday agreement brought us? Is this what we voted for with such hope in our hearts?

If the Government does not use the sanctions at its disposal, the terrorists will behave as they please. Indeed, the peace process is fast becoming the gangster process.

There is another reason for increasing violence. Even as Sinn Fein and loyalist fringe parties pay lip-service to the condemnation of "punishment beatings" they also use ugly euphemisms to argue that that a "rough form of community justice" will unfortunately continue until the "policing vacuum" in Northern Ireland has been filled. The beatings are intended to cow the State into neutering the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The IRA-Sinn Fein leadership in particular is orchestrating intimidation in nationalist areas as part of a strategy to influence the Patten Commission's report into the future of the RUC.

The objective is clear. IRA-Sinn Fein says that the RUC is an unacceptable police force and must be disbanded — to be replaced by a force acceptable to the IRA. In its perverted logic, the beatings are a proof of the so-called "policing vacuum". Clearly, the republican leadership — and that includes Adams and Martin McGuinness — are determined to destroy the RUC. If they are allowed to get away with it, goodbye to the peace process.

Fears for the future of the RUC, the failure of the IRA to decommission, the release of terrorist prisoners — all of these sicken the ordinary people who voted for the Good Friday agreement. As First Minister designate of the Northern Ireland Assembly, David Trimble will be politically and morally correct in current circumstances to refuse the IRA entry into an executive designed to govern Northern Ireland. The terrorist leaders are, after all, ignoring their obligations under the peace agreement. It is they who are behaving violently, and so it is they who deserve censure and isolation.

Is it really beyond the power of Government to bring the terrorist gangs to heel? There is a mean spiritedness in the corridors of power and its name is cowardice.

If the present situation is allowed to continue, and if Mr Trimble is forced to accept IRA-Sinn Fein into an executive without decommissioning, the agreement will collapse. IRA/Sinn Fein might well bring down the agreement itself anyway if it is pressured to begin decommissioning — but at least the stench of moral corruption that surrounds the process will then have been dissipated. Blair and Ahern must face them down, otherwise all is lost.

Sean O'Callaghan is a former IRA commander and the author of The Informer.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Exit Bron?

AUBERON WAUGH is poised to stroll out of the *Literary Review*, the magazine he has edited for 13 years. Richard Ingrams, Editor of the *Oldie*, has offered him a billet and a column. This would enable Waugh (pictured), our most open-minded reactionary, to escape the study he shares with his bracing deputy, Nancy Sladek.

Waugh is troubled by the illness of his close friend Susan Crosland (pictured), widow of the late Cabinet minister, and spends much time visiting her in hospital. Bron declines to confirm the story, but Ingrams says: "I have offered it to him. We are very keen to get him." One of Bron's cronies is franker: "He has had enough of the *Literary Review*. He should impose himself more but he is too sweet-natured."

If he does go, I fear for the future of Naim Attallah's organ. It is bankrolled by such generous souls as Lord Hanson and Sir Paul Getty, but without Bron they might not find the magazine so alluring.

● *MPs discussed part-time work in committee yesterday: government MPs attending? None.*

Brief lives

THE Lord Chancellor bears the stiletto marks of Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws, my favourite brief twiddler. The baroness marched into Lord Irvine of Lairg's office to assail him over his Access to Justice Bill (she is disturbed that legal-aiders will not be allowed to choose a defence lawyer). Phrases such as "loyalty" and "vote against" were uttered. Derry has now promised changes. No connection, I'm sure.

● *WORD that Tony Blair looks kindly on Charles Kennedy has strained a warm friendship: the LibDem leadership favourite fears that vocal support from his chum Alastair Campbell, though well-meaning, will have done little to charm independent-minded, lettuce munching activists.*

Striking gold

JACK CUNNINGHAM'S patronage could become the gold standard. Since we put him up at the five-star Conrad International in Brussels, it has been made a member of the Leading Hotels of the World — a select club representing 300 sumptuous pads.

● *JEREMY IRONS has found guilt. The actor, who has restored a ruin in Co Cork, says: "My country did terrible things to Ireland over the past 700 years, one of which was knocking the top off Kilcoe Castle. So I am going to try and put it right." Jolly good. That should make up for the potato famine.*

Offside

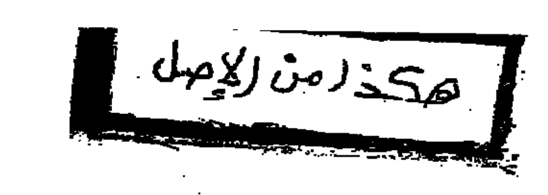
IN my piece "own goal?" I incorrectly stated that "Tom Pendry, chairman of the Football Trust has awarded a contract to a company which employed his erstwhile researcher" and unjust types might think it smacked of cronyism. I now gather that Pendry did not actually *award* the contract; it was awarded by Philip French, head of communications at the trust. Apologies to Pendry for any distress caused.

● *A DRAM to Lord Russell-Johnston, first Scots President of the Council of Europe. Well done.*

Lightweight

A SLIMMED-down operator: Huw Edwards. The well-fed new face of BBC News has lost two stone. "I couldn't appear like a big balloon to the nation." Try telling Derry.

JASPER GERARD



CHRISTIANS IN PERIL

Burnings, murder and the new intolerance of Asia

Mahatma Gandhi expected the India of his dreams "to be wholly tolerant, with its religions working side by side with one another". For India's Christians, those expectations have been brutally betrayed since last March, when the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) formed a new Indian Government. The mob murder in Orissa at the weekend of the Australian evangelical missionary Graham Staines, incinerated in his car with his two young sons by Hindu extremists, brought to 109 the recorded acts of violence against Christians in ten months. That compares with 50 in the entire half-century since independence.

Attempts to invoke Gandhi's spirit of tolerance by India's Christian leaders, who last month led tens of thousands in a day of protest at the Jamuna River where Gandhi was cremated, have been pathetically ineffective against an orchestrated campaign by extremists affiliated to the BJP. In Gujarat, Christian appeals for official protection after dozens of assaults were answered by a renewed Christmas outbreak of church-burnings, forced "purification ceremonies", attacks on priests and nuns and the stoning of schools. Yesterday, even as India's leaders condemned the Staines murder and thousands flocked to the funeral, five other Christian missionaries were viciously beaten in Allahabad in an attack applauded by the Bajrang Dal, the militants behind the Staines murder.

India's Christians are not alone in experiencing a great upsurge of intolerance and violence. In China and Vietnam, persecution is ideologically driven; but from Pakistan to Nepal and Indonesia, Asian Christians are under assault as they have not been in living memory. What is puzzling is why they should be singled out.

These are minority communities so tiny that they cannot by definition pose any threat to national cohesion or majority beliefs. India's 23 million are only 2.6 per cent of the population. In Pakistan, where justice for Christians is now virtually non-existent and police have deliberately exposed Christians to danger in some areas by ordering them to identify their houses with crosses, much as Nazi Germany instituted the yellow star for Jews, they number only three million, mostly desperately poor. In Indonesia, where the situation is more complex because many are also Chinese, Christians have more protection; the military has, in most cases, made serious efforts to quell Muslim-Christian riots like those which have just gutted the eastern town of Ambon. But in India, the Government stands accused, by moderate Hindus as well as Christians, of appeasing, if not covertly abetting, crimes committed by its own supporters.

History associates religious persecutions with weak leaders — Mary Tudor in England, Nicholas III in Russia — or with periods of national unease and self-doubt, as with the expulsion of Muslims and Jews from Spain. Asia's economic disasters have made the vulnerable more exposed. But India has been relatively lightly touched by the Asian disease; there, the problem is a governing party that rose to power by cultivating a religious militancy whose destructiveness it is unable or unwilling to control. This is not a resurgence of anti-colonialism, despite the Hindu demands to expel all foreign missionaries: Christians have existed in India since AD52. It has more to do with caste; 60 per cent of Christians are Untouchables, and a further 15 to 20 per cent are Adivasis, remnants of India's downtrodden aboriginal tribes. Most of all, Christians are vulnerable precisely because they are so few; having discovered that attacking Muslims loses the BJP votes, Hindu activists have picked an easier target for their broader message of religious intolerance. The Prime Minister, Ahal Bihari Vajpayee, has told Christians: "I share your agony." The Staines murders will put his Government under pressure to translate his words of pain into effective action.

SAMARANCH MUST GO

His exit is the only way forward for the Olympics

The Olympic Games are facing their most shameful moment in more than a century of idealism and record-breaking achievement. Yet Juan Antonio Samaranch, the President of the International Olympic Committee, refuses to resign. Shrugging off responsibility for the latest corruption scandal, he has called instead for a vote of confidence at an extaordinary IOC meeting next month. His move is a cynical attempt to save his career while sacrificing the six members most implicated in the corrupt awarding of the Summer and Winter Games to the winning cities. The affair, however, is far from over, and goes beyond squalid bribery. It has exposed the jealousies, power struggles and abuses of authority that lead directly to Señor Samaranch himself. Until he goes, the Olympic movement will remain blighted.

The former Spanish diplomat has never made a secret of his ambition. As Spanish Ambassador to Brezhnev's Soviet Union, he was accused of cosying up to the Russians as they were desperately trying to stop the post-Afghanistan boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Señor Samaranch spoke out strongly against the boycott; by coincidence, Moscow was one of the strongest proponents of his subsequent nomination as IOC President.

He promised, at the time, to be a clean broom to sweep out the age and dust that had settled in the IOC corridors. There were pointed reminders that Avery Brundage, the venerable former President, had been well over 80 when he retired in 1972, and had blighted his tenure with a reputation for autocratic behaviour. By 2001, when his term ends, Señor Samaranch will be 81; and the stories of his vanity, arrogance and regal lifestyle make Mr Brundage seem a model of saintly humility by comparison.

Of all organisations, the Olympics, founded to promote moral as well as physical excellence, should be sensitive to the ideals of youth, brotherhood and international goodwill. But though these clichés are forever on the lips of Señor Samaranch and his cronies, there is little room for youth and less for goodwill, in their determination to remain in power.

Señor Samaranch has now headed the IOC for 18 years. The committee members are virtually his appointees. With the expansion of his power base into the Third World, he brought in members for whom the culture of mutual favours was both tempting and acceptable. They owed their position to him; he owed his power to their votes. The most notorious of the members now facing expulsion, Jean-Claude Ganga from the Congo, has been accused of making £30,000 from a land deal set up by Salt Lake City. It was he who led the move in the IOC to extend the President's tenure so that Señor Samaranch, hungry for a Nobel Peace Prize, could remain in office beyond the age set for retirement.

Señor Samaranch now claims, with breathtaking disingenuity, that he knew nothing of corruption and is a victim of his underlings. If so, he should be dismissed for incompetence. If he knew but turned a blind eye, he should be sacked for dishonesty. Under his presidency, the movement has lost direction, vitality and now credibility. If the Olympics are to be saved, he should resign forthwith.

YOUNG EINSTEINS

The Times and the Royal Institution put youth on a pedestal

The scientific life presents a paradox. While the greatest discoveries are almost invariably made by the young, the world's academies are occupied by the old. Professors in their sixties preside over departments in which the creative work is done by research students in their twenties, with no tenure and no guarantee of continued employment. When they publish papers, their names often appear below those of their supervisors. Recognition comes creeping slow, too slow for many who leave the profession in despair.

Of course, nobody ever pretended that becoming a scientist was an easy option. It takes years to build a reputation, so that by the time it is achieved the most productive years are past. Scientists win prizes not for work they did last year, but a decade or more ago. The prizes which Alfred Nobel intended to recognise the finest achievements of that year are usually given to old men, and less often women, for discoveries made when they were young. The weight of hierarchy hangs heavy over the whole enterprise.

Tomorrow evening at the Royal Institution in London, the first in a series of lectures by young scientists is to be given by an Oxford chemist, Martin Westwell, on antibiotic resistance. *The Times* is backing the lecture series, the idea of Professor Susan Greenfield, the new and energetic director of the Royal Institution. Her intentions are twofold. First, she hopes in a small way to challenge the hierarchy of science by giving an opportunity to young scientists — those under 40 — to lecture in the theatre made famous by Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday. Secondly, she proposes to award the best lecturer at the end of the year with a prize for scientific communication, a skill seldom rewarded in the normal order of things but increasingly recognised as vitally important.

She does not pretend that the lectures are more than a gesture towards redressing the balance in science. More needs to be done to improve the career structure of young scientists, and make them less subject to the weight of authority exerted by those who run departments. If a young patent examiner called Albert Einstein had needed a grant to pursue his researches in relativity, he would never have got one; nor would Charles Darwin have been allowed to set foot on *HMS Beagle* if he had known, and declared, that his experience there would unseat the Creator. Great science is subversive, bold, and risky — the very qualities of youth. Too much of today's science, by contrast, is conservative and pedestrian, dominated by committees and rules which inhibit true creativity. And we may never know what we have missed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Blair must halt Ulster 'mob rule'

From Mr A. D. D. Kent

Sir, You are to be congratulated in drawing attention to the continuing violence in Northern Ireland (reports from Martin Fletcher, January 11, 14, 20, 22 and 25).

If, during the first week of January, five Home Counties men had been shot by hooded thugs and a further dozen attacked since, not to mention the hundreds maimed during the last year, the matter would have had top priority, with calls from the media and MPs for immediate action.

Our Government, comfortably ensconced far away from this sickening daily round of injury and exile, must take action and give full support to those within the communities who wish it to stop, but are reluctant to speak out.

For a start, the Prime Minister might go on Ulster TV to explain how others feel: that such barbarous, unjustified behaviour sickens any civilised person; that these are not the actions of strong men but of weak, cowardly, inferior individuals; and, most important, that we expect the senior officials of all groupings to stamp it out *now*.

This psychopathic criminal behaviour is perilously close to mob rule.

Yours,
A. D. KENT,
Long Mynd, Upper Station Road,
Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9PH.
January 25.

From Dr Alan Sked

Sir, The news that Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, is to meet "relatives of an IRA unit killed by the SAS while attacking a Co Armagh police station" (report, January 22) provides yet more evidence of the nature of the "peace process".

Daily, more and more criminals — murderers, bombers, arsonists, thugs — are released on to the streets; daily more punishment beatings are being reported. Yet the IRA, which has already broken one ceasefire, insists that it will decommission no weapons and warns us that the present ceasefire is also in danger of being broken.

The Government's response has been to appease it even further. The Prime Minister's promises, made (cynically? dishonestly?) before the Northern Irish referendum, have been carefully mothballed while Mo Mowlam has recently been reduced to silence.

The reasons are clear. Peace in Northern Ireland was brought about when it suited the IRA to get its most valuable terrorists out of prison. Now that that process is well under way, it can wait for more concessions or return to violence.

The question is whether the Government, having been duped once, will allow itself to be duped again. Or does it really believe that cross-border institutions for fisheries and tourism are what the IRA went to war to achieve?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SKED,
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park,
Highbury, N5 2BH.
January 22.

Sierra Leone conflict

From Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer (retd)

Sir, I read with interest Sam Kiley's article today, "Send in the mercenaries, Mr Cook".

Sandline has always maintained its willingness to act in support of President Kabbah and Ecomog. If democracy is to survive in Sierra Leone the time has come to stop pretending that there is any way to negotiate a permanent peaceful settlement with the RUF (Revolutionary United Front). We must take the gloves off, defeat them in the field and shut off their external support.

This is the third time that the RUF has virtually taken over Sierra Leone. The international community must wake up to the threat; surely it is now time for First World governments to engage private military companies which, in the absence of military support from the West, are prepared to demonstrate the pragmatic application of an ethical foreign policy?

A vicious organisation like the RUF, which arrogantly commits unspeakable atrocities against its fellow countrymen and treats the international community with contempt, deserves to be destroyed, not given the benefit of a negotiated settlement.

Yours etc,
TIM SPICER,
Sandline International,
535 Kings Road, SW10 0SZ.
January 22.

The wrong signal

From Mr Brian Walker

Sir, Sign seen recently in a Leeds mobile phone shop: "100 minutes free calls — only £25."

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN WALKER,
23 Station Road,
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9JE.
brian.walker@kpmg.co.uk
January 19.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Corruption on an Olympian scale

From Mr George Moody-Stuart

Sir, The Olympic scandal (reports, January 23 and 25) may cause many people to question at what point a gift becomes a bribe.

For many years the standard definition of corruption has been one coined by J. J. Senturia for the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, published in 1931: "The misuse of public power for private profit." This, however, is relevant to the receiver rather than to the payer.

In the latter case, Professor Wesley Cragg, writing in a recent issue of the *International Journal* (Canadian Institute of Public Affairs), has offered: "Any attempt to persuade someone in a position of responsibility to make a decision or recommendation on any grounds other than the intrinsic merits of the case."

In the United States it is a crime under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (1977) to bribe a public official from another country; and presumably the Justice Department will now be looking closely at Salt Lake City's bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics and perhaps Atlanta's earlier success also.

The OECD's Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, which will have a similar effect in participant countries including the UK, does not come into force until February 15, 1999.

Meanwhile the President of the Australian Olympic Association is quoted (*The Sunday Times*, January 24) as saying, in relation to large cash payments made to the Kenyan and Ugandan Olympic Committees: "My view was that it might encourage them to consider their votes for Sydney." If that is not corruption, what is?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MOODY-STUART
(Chairman),
Transparency International (UK),
St Nicholas House, St Nicholas Road,
Sutton, Surrey SM1 1EL.
January 25.

From the Chairman of The Olympians

Sir, Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch may plead ignorance of the corruption within his International Olympic Committee, but he cannot walk away from the fact that he personally set the parameters for Olympic profligacy.

We are told that he expects a stretch limousine for even the shortest of journeys, that he will seldom use public transport but expects private helicopters, aircraft and even trains to be available for him to reach the best suite in the finest hotel in any city that is hosting his visit.

This grandiose lifestyle has inevitably sent strong messages to his colleagues and minions within the IOC, many of whom have come to regard the Olympic Movement as a gravy-train and act accordingly.

What we need now is an IOC President who exhibits a more humble and restrained approach to the development of the Olympic ethos.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DISLEY,
Chairman, The Olympians,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2DW.
January 25.

Airport at Aldeburgh

From Mr Yann Borgstedt

Sir, The letter from the chief executive of Aldeburgh Productions and others about an airport three miles from Snape Maltings at Bentwaters (January 21) was long on emotion but short on information.

The US military airfield at Bentwaters coexisted happily with the Maltings for many years. There is no reason why that cannot happen again. We have told the new chief executive we would very much like to work with him to achieve that.

We are, after all, talking about a local airport with projections of ten commercial flights a day in ten years' time, using quiet, modern aircraft which will hardly be heard at The Maltings above the background noise of daily life.

Aldeburgh Town Council, which is equally concerned about the success of the festival, has no reservations about our plan to regenerate a derelict eyesore, creating 2,000 jobs with homes on the doorstep, while restoring local heath and woodland. They have voted 11-2 in favour of our proposal.

After all we are not proposing something new. The principle of continuing aviation at Bentwaters has been well established since 1993 by government-appointed inspectors, the county council and the district council, partly in recognition of the fact that Suffolk is now the only English county without a commercial airport.

Yours faithfully,
YANN BORGSTEDT
(Project Manager),
Anglia International Airpark,
Rendlesham, Suffolk IP12 2RJ.
January 21.

From Mr Lewis Benjamin

Sir, It's been a long while since I have read such an OTT and self-important squawk of pointless panic as from the "names" at Aldeburgh. They should be ashamed of themselves for associating with such nimbyism.

All that is required is for what little traffic there's ever likely to be from Bentwaters to avoid Snape. Even Joan Sutherland at full throttle couldn't be heard from three miles away.

Yours in disbelief,
LEWIS BENJAMIN,
17 Brown Court, Westfields,
Ashby de la Zouch LE65 2LZ.
January 21.

Thatcher on leadership

From Mr Kenneth Harris

Sir, Magnus Linklater, in his most stimulating column, "A hole at the heart of this parliament" (January 21), recalls, with approval, the now famous words of Margaret Thatcher, "... you've got to have a togetherness, a unity in your Cabinet", and her belief in a Cabinet composed only of "the people who want to go in the direction which every instinct tells me we have to go. Clearly, steadily, firmly, with resolution".

Mr Linklater states that this courageous utterance was made "early in Thatcher's first administration".

In fact, she made it (to me, in an interview for *The Observer*) several weeks before the 1979 election, which many thought she would lose, at the head of a much divided party, most of whose leaders strongly disapproved of her view on how to run governments, some fearing her airing of them might cost them the election.

Yours etc,
KENNETH HARRIS,
45 Molyneux Street,
London W1H 5HW.
January 21.

Deaf ex-servicemen

From Mr J. Siegler, FRCS

Sir, As an ENT consultant I am frequently asked to give an opinion as to whether a person's deafness is the result of noise exposure at work. During the consultation it often emerges that this person had been exposed to noise during his military service.

In order to ascertain which of these exposures is the cause of the present deafness (letters, January 18) it would be very helpful if I could see an audiogram taken of his hearing on being discharged from the Army. Whenever I make such a request, however, I am told that no audiogram is available. An opinion is therefore only possible on the basis of the probabilities.

An audiogram carried out at demobilisation would not be very time-consuming, especially if consent were restricted to those who had been exposed to the noise of heavy guns. Such a process would save a great deal of time and be fair both to the plaintiff and to the Army.

Yours faithfully,
J. SIEGLER,
31 Rodney Street, Liverpool L1 9EH.
January 19.

Problem shelved

From Mrs Imogen Mottram

Sir, Unable to find any tins of tomatoes in the canned vegetables section of a supermarket in Aberdeen (letters, January 18 and 20) I was directed to the Italian section, marked "Foreign Foods".

Yours sincerely,
IMOGEN MOTTRAM,
15 Freewaters Close, Ickleford,
Nr Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3TQ.
January 21.

From Mr M. J. J. Tanner

Sir, Whilst in Normandy last summer, I found Bisto gravy powder in a hardware shop on the same shelf as colouring for tile grout.

And in a small town near Oslo, a number of years ago, I saw Findus fish fingers in a freezer selling frozen cat food.

Yours sincerely,
M. J. J. TANNER,
2 Highfield Road,
Worthing, West Sussex BN13 1PX.
January 20.

Seeking work

From Mr Timothy Gibbon

Sir, As someone who has been unemployed for a year, I was interested to read Mr Frank Field's letter (January 18). I am quite a bit older than 25.

I have just returned from my local jobcentre, having been invited for a routine interview, my sixth since August. The interview did not take place. Like all the previous five it was cancelled because there was no staff member available to conduct it.

I have no way of knowing how widespread is the problem of staffing in the employment service: but if my local office is representative, one wonders whether Mr Field's suggestion of a sophisticated monitoring system is really practicable. Even computer-generated data require a human being to evaluate them.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY GIBBON,
Flat B, 66 Farleigh Road,
Stoke Newington, N16 7TQ.
January 18.

Business letters, page 31

Tone of Sir Paul's call to parents

From Mrs Jenny Anderson

Sir, I am more offended by Sir Paul McCartney's message to parents (report and advertisement, January 25) than by his late wife's use of the F-word in her new single.

His sarcastic and mocking tone would more become a cocky, teenage pop star who is in the throes of youthful rebellion than an ageing one whose remarks should be tempered by his years and the responsibilities of parenthood. For shame, Sir Paul.

Yours,
JENNIFER ANDERSON,
6 Hailey Lane, Hertford SG13 7NX.
jackande@globalnet.co.uk
January 25.

From Mr Rodney Gray

Sir, Your newspaper today contains a half-page advertisement by Sir Paul McCartney, but no address to which one may reply.

I hold Sir Paul in the highest regard. I am a great admirer of his work and that of his late wife, and I felt enormous sympathy with him when she died. I can accept, too, his views about the words to which he refers and that in many areas today they are in common use. I wonder if he can accept, however, that there are those to whom they give great offence. I for one have no wish to hear them on my radio or television, even though I am about the same age as Sir Paul.

While I fully support the rights of those who wish to buy the record and hear the lyrics, I also fully support those who seek to avoid giving offence to me and countless others by not bringing the words into my home.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY GRAY,
Homefield, Horndean,
Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1XJ.
January 25.

Baths at Qumran

From Mr Robert Feather

Sir, Ms Gloria Moss, in her article in *Faith and Freedom* on the so-called "1st-century health spa" at Qumran (report, January 18), appears to ignore the evidence that the main activity of the community of Essenes at Qumran was prayer and devotion to holy texts.

Similar immersion baths to those at Qumran (which is not in Jordan, as you report, but in Israel) have been found elsewhere in Israel, and the community's writings make it clear that extreme cleanliness and ritual washing was essential to their way of life — hence the large number of baths. The community did have secrets, it is true, but these related to things other than medicines.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FEATHER,
35 Baxendale, Whetstone, N20 0EG.

Golden years

From Dr Julia Leach

Sir, I have long believed that middle age (letters, January 5, 12 and 19) is ten years older than me, and old age is ten years older than my parents.

Yours faithfully,
JULIA LEACH,
The Lodge, Sandy Lane,
Old Lakenham, Norwich NR1 2NR.

From Mr Bob Capon

Sir, I aways understood that 40 is the old age of youth and 50 the youth of old age.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. CAPON,
54 Ridgeway Crescent,
Orpington, Kent BR6 9QP.
January 22.

From Mr Henry R. Magrill

Sir, Perhaps the best late 20th-century definition of middle age is: "Too old to be a toy boy and too young to be a sugar daddy".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY R. MAGRILL,
Flat 6, 7 Cleveland Gardens, W2 6HA.
magrill@clara.net
January 19.

Time warp

From Mr Ivan K. Rowland

Sir, I seem to recall that the esteemed film critic Mr Barry Norman referred to the film *2010* as "ten past eight" (letter, January 19).

Yours faithfully,
IVAN K. ROWLAND,
59 Codrington Hill, SE23 1LR.
January 19.

Heavenly bliss

From Mrs Janet Kingston

Sir, Dr Stuttaford states in his article on Viagra (Medical briefing, January 22), "there is no sex in the graveyard".

Any vicar, vicar's wife, verger, sexton, etc, would tell him that there is usually evidence to the contrary in most graveyards. I suspect my husband has often baptised a baby conceived within a few yards of the font!

Yours faithfully,
JANET KINGSTON,
8 Pengilly Road, Farnham GU9 7XQ.
roykingston@lineone.net
January 22.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 25: The Prime Minister of New Zealand, accompanied by Mr Burton Shipley was invited to luncheon with The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Duke of York and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon were present.

The following were invited: His *Excellency the High Commissioner* for New Zealand and Mr Alan Williams (Foreign Policy Adviser).

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Rear Admiral Rod Lees (Defence Services Secretary) at the Funeral of Rear Admiral Sir Leslie Townsend (formerly Defence Services Secretary) which was held at Porchester Crematorium, Fareham, today.

The Duke of York was represented by Commander Charlotte Manley, RN.

The Duke of Edinburgh was *represented by Rear Admiral* Patrick Rowe (Deputy Master, Corporation *of Trinity House, London), at the* Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of *Captain Neil Turner* (Elder Brother of Trinity House), which was held at *St Olave's Church, City of London,* today.

Luncheons

SABA/Macmillan Publishers Ltd
Mr F.W. de Klerk was guest of *honour and guest speaker* at a luncheon of the Southern Africa *Business Association/Macmillan* Publishers Ltd held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Honorary President of the Association, was *the host*.

Mr de Klerk also signed copies of his autobiography 'The Last Trek: A New Beginning'.

Fruiterers' Company
Mr Anthony Redsell, Master of the Fruiterers' Company, presented the company's 1998 Marden Fruit Show diplomas at a luncheon held yesterday at Innholders' Hall. The award of best exhibit of Pears went to Mr Victor Breach, best Culinary Apples *to Mr Nigel Bardsley and* best Dessert Apples to Mr Robert Mitchell. *Mr G.L. Doubleday also spoke.* Afterwards the following were elected *officers for the ensuing year:*

Master, Judge D. M. Cryan; Upper Warden, *Mr Laurence Stephen Olins*; Renter Warden, Mr Hugh Edwin Byron Kelsey.

North Yorkshire

Lord Crathorne has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire *in succession to Sir Marcus Worsley* who will be retiring on March 24.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
The annual dinner of the Royal *Institution of Chartered Surveyors* will take place on February 23 and not January 23 as announced in *The Times* on Monday. For tickets phone 0171 393 4960.

Memorial service: Viscount Rothermere

Viscount Rothermere
The Prime Minister read a lesson at a memorial service for Viscount Rothermere held yesterday in *Westminster Abbey.*

The Dean of Westminster officiated, assisted by the Rev Dominic *Fenton*, Precentor, the Bishop of London and Canon John Oates Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, who led the prayers.

Viscount Rothermere, son, gave a reading. *Mr Paul Dacre, Editor-in-Chief,* Associated Newspapers, and Mr Ian Wooldridge, Chief *Sports Writer, Daily Mail,* gave addresses.

Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, accompanied by Sir Denis Thatcher, the Leader of HM Opposition and *Mrs Hague*, and the Chairman of the Conservative Party attended.

The President of Hungary was represented by the Hungarian Ambassador. Among others present were:

The Dowager Viscountess Rothermere (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Glyn Maxwell (son-in-law and daughter) the Hon Mrs Camilla Yeates (daughter), Viscountess Rothermere *(daughter-in-law), the Hon Augusta* Ogilvy (granddaughter), the Hon Mrs van der Woude and the Hon Lady Cooper-Key (sisters), the Hon Esmond Harmsworth (half-brother), Mr and Mrs Harry Holcroft (stepson-in-law and step-daughter), Mr and Mrs Nicholas Matthews (brother-in-law and *sister-in-law), Mrs Jenny Willis (sister-in-law),* Mr and Mrs Kenneth E Harmsworth, Mrs C P Martel, Mrs V M Mash, Miss Anne Durham, Dr D F Spencer, the Earl and Countess of Cromer, Mme Anne-Marie d'Estainville, Mrs Anna Cooper-Key, the Hon Vivian Baring, Mr Cosmo Cooper-Key, Miss *Cara Cooper-Key, Mr Rowley Baring,* Mr Thomas Baring, Mr Rupert Matthews, Mr Henry Matthews, Mr Felix Matthews, Miss Tamara Gray, Mr and Mrs Jamie Abdy-Collins, Mr Ben Willis, Mr and Mrs Terry Clemence, Mr and Mr Richard Pilkington, Sir Harold Harmsworth, Lord Harmsworth, Mr *and Mrs Miles Harmsworth.*

The Brazilian Ambassador, the American Ambassador and *Mrs Lader, the Romanian* Ambassador and Mrs Onofrei, the Ambassador of Finland and Mrs Salolainen, Mr Itaru Umezu (representing the Ambassador of Japan).

Earl Alexander of Tunis, *Earl* and Countess Bathurst, the Earl and Countess of Dudley, *Penelope Countess of Lindsay,* Raine Countess Spencer, Viscount Trenchard, Viscount Astor, Lady Rupert Nevill, Lady Alexander of Weedon, Lord Ampthill, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Lord Boston of Faversham, QC, Lord and Lady Feldman, Lord and Lady Forte, Lady Grade, Renée *Lady Iliffe, Lady Lever of Manchester, Lord* Menuhin, OM, and Lady Menuhin.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Lord Palumbo, Baroness Rawlings, Lord and Lady Rayne, Lady Rothschild, Lord St John of Fawsley (Royal Fine Art Commission), Lord Saatchi (M&C Saatchi), Lord Shawcross, QC, and *Lady Shawcross, Lord Stevens of Ludgate* (chairman, United News Media) and Lady Stevens, Lord and Lady Tunlaw, Baroness Trumpington, Lord Wolfson, FBA, (Wolfson Foundation), Lady Wyatt of Weeford.

Mr Michael Heseltine, CH, MP, *Lady* Elizabeth Shakerley, the Hon Mrs Zamira *Benthall, the Hon Natasha Grenfell, the Hon* Sir Mark and Lady Lennox-Boyd, the Hon Mrs Fionn Morgan, the Hon Lady Aitken, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, Sir Tobias Clarke, Helen Lady Delves Broughton, Sir Anthony and Lady Meyer, Sir Richard Storey.

Lady (John) Boyd, Sir Gordon Brunton, Sir Peter and Lady Clarke, *Sir Evelyn de* Rothschild, Sir John Elliott, FBA, and Lady Elliott, *Sir Ewen Fergusson* (chairman, Coutts Co), Sir John Fretwell and Lady Fretwell (chairman, Passports for Pets), Sir Ronald Grierson, Lady Hopkinson, Lady Mallaby, Sir Denis and Lady Mountain, Lady Panufnik.

Sir Edward Pickering (executive vice-chair*man, Times Newspapers) also representing* the Chairman and Chief Executive, News Corporation) and Lady Pickering, with Mr Leslie Hinton (Executive Chairman, News International), Mr D Flynn, Mr B McWilliam, Mr Stuart Kuttner *(News of the World)*, Mr William Newman *(The Sun)* and other members of the group.

Sir Charles Powell (Matheson & Co) and Lady Powell, Sir Frank Rogers (a director, Telegraph Group), Sir Nicholas and Lady Lloyd, Sir Gordon and Lady Reece, Lady Solti, *Sir Sigmund Sternberg* (International Council of Christians and Jews), Sir Mark and *Lady Weinberg, Mr Christopher* and Lady Mary Gaye Shaw, Mrs Drue Heinz, DBE, *Princess George Galitzine, Prince and* Princess Rupert *Loewenstein*, Princess Mari*anne zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn, Prince Man*gal Kapoor.

Mr Charles Sinclair (chief executive, Daily Mail and General Trust) with Mr Peter Williams (finance director), Mr Adrian Perry (group treasurer), and other board directors, Mr Peter Wright (Editor, *Mail on Sunday*), Mr Roger Gilbert (chairman, Harmsworth Media), Mr Martin Dunn (Editor-in-chief, *Associated New Media*), Mr Julian Aston (director, DMG Television), Mr Padraic Fallon (chairman, *Euromoney Publications*), Mr Alex Davidson (managing director, Northcliffe Newspapers Group), *Mr Murdoch* MacLennan (managing director, Associated Newspapers) Mr Guy Zitter (managing director, *Daily Mail*), Mr Max Hastings (Editor, *Evening Standard*).

Mr Nicholas Gold (Baring Brothers International), Mr B C Goss (Gordonstoun *School), Professor Ian Hall (Bloomsbury* International Society), Mr H Hammond (The *News Trade Charity - Old Ben), Ms Belinda* Harley (Belinda Harley Associates), Mr Adam A Helliker *(The Sunday Telegraph)*, Mr P J Howes (Dixon Wilson), Mr F P M Johnston (Johnston Press) and Mrs Johnston, *Mr Harold King (City Ballet of London)* and Ms Judith Pleasance (City Ballet of London *Trust), Mr Mark Loveday (senior partner,* Cazenove & Co) with Mr J Cazalet and Mr J Paynter; Mr Graham Lovelace and Mr Mike Stewart (Teletext), Dr Colin Lucas (Oxford University), Mr Michael MacCabe (Freshfields) *and Mrs MacCabe with Mr J Long;* Mr John McEntee *(The Express)*, Ms Victoria *Mather (Tatler), Mr John Menzies* (John Menzies) and Mrs Menzies, Mr Adam Miles (Lines Bannister & Co), Ms Angela C Mills (European Publishing Council), Mr Stephen Miron *(The Independent)*, Professor Eric *Moonman (Essex Radio) with Mr Rob van* Pooss, Mr D C Moore (Wiggin and Co), Mr Willie Nagel *(W Nagel), Mr Brian Nicholson* (Advertising Standards Board of Finance) and Mrs Nicholson, Ms Cathy Peters (Campaign for Learning), Mr Paul Potts (Press Association), Ms Jane Rangeley (Commonwealth Press Union), *Mr Harry* Roach (Press Association), Mr John Rogers *(London News Service), Mr Piers Russell-*Cobb (Media Fund), Ms Anne Sacks *(Evening Standard)*, Mr S Samuels and Mr J Devine (North Foreland Gold Club), Mr Bruno Schroder (Schroders), Mrs F S Shackleton (Farrer & Co), Countess L Smirnoff (Helpline for Children in Russia), *Mr C H W Thomson (D C Thomson & Co)* and Mrs Thomson, Mr Bob Walton (Conrad Advertising), Mr Mark Wood (Reuters and ITN), Mr Michael Wynne-Parker (Introcom).

Mr Jonathan Aitken, Dr and Mrs A Akgun, Mr *Andrew Alexander*, Mr Richard Allen, Mr Jim Anderson, Mr Jarvis Astaire, *Mr C Banham, Mrs T Barber, Mr Peter G* Birch, Mr Mark Birley, Mr Octavius Black, Mr Peter Bottomley, MP, and Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Mr and Mrs Arthur Brittenden, Mrs Avril Brown, Mr and Mrs Garth Burden, Mr David Bushell, Ms Sarah Callander Beckett, Mr Brian Campbell-Mitch*ell, Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, Mr F J Chapman,* Ms Ann M Childs, Mr David Chipp, Mr Richard Compton Miller, Mr Peter Dacre, Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, Mr J Daxer, Mr Alexander de Gelsey, Mr Nigel Dempster, Mr and Mrs John Dickie, Mr Robert Dignum, Mr John Dixey, Mr D J Earle, Mr John Edwards, Mr *and Mrs Philip Edwards, Mr and Mrs Robin* Esser, Mr Julian Fagandini, Mr Padraic Fallon, Mr Harry Fane, Mr and Mrs G Ferrett, Mr Christopher Fildes, Mr Alastair Forbes, Major and Mrs Ivan Foxwell, Mr Brian Freemantle, Mr and Mrs Howard French, Mr William French, Mr Paul Findlay, *Mr Brian Hitchen, Mr Richard Fitzalan* Howard, Colonel and Mrs Thomas Fitzalan Howard, *Mr and Mrs Roderick Flemings*, Mr Michael Frewin, Mr and Mrs Oliver Gaites, Mrs M Godden, Mr Edward Garnier, QC, MP, Mr Roderick Gilchrist, Mr Tom Gillespie, Mr Marius Gray, Mr Dr J Groenewald, *Mr Peter Grover, Mr Bill* Hagerty, Mr A C Hammett, Mr and Mrs *Philip Harari, Mr Charles Harding, Mrs M E* Harpur, Mr Charles Harding, Miss Atlanta Harmsworth, Mr Vyvyan Harmsworth, Mrs Christine Hawkins, Mr Walter Hayes, Mr R C Heath, Mr Ivor Herbert, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Holborow, Mr Patrick Howell, Ms *Laura Hussey.*

Mr Mike Ironside, Mr James Irving, Mr I *Jackson, Mr and Mrs R James, Mr Michael* Jay, Mr E A Jeffery, Mr D L Jennings, Mr Patrick Keeble, Mr Michael Kemp, Mrs Betty Kenward, Mrs M Kindersley, Mr Leonard Kingdom, Mr Louis Kirby, Mr David Kirby, *Mr Peter Kirwan-Taylor, Mr John Knight,* Mr Herbert Kretzmer, Mr and Mrs Harold *Leach, Mr Michael Leapman, Ms Lynda* Lee-Potter, Ms Ann Leslie, Ms Angela Levin, Mr Geoffrey Levy, Mr and Mrs David Lewin, Mr Peter Lewis, Mr S J MacKeddie, Mr J Brian McConnell, Mr K McCulloch, Mr and Mrs Angus *Macpherson, Mr Angus McGill,* Mr K McDowell, Mr Peter McKay, Mr *Kenneth Mahood, Mr R L Marten, Mr Monty* Meth, Mr Michael Mander, Dr James Maxwell, Mr David Metcalfe, Mr Peter Milner, Mr and Mrs Sydney L Mayer, Mr Tom Montague Meyer and Miss Fleur Cowles, Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Mitchell, Mr and Mrs Kenneth Morgan, Miss Lucinda *Murray, Mr Kenneth W Neame, Mr James A* G Nicoll, Mr and Mrs Christopher Nevill, Mr *M Newman, Mr Bill Nicol, Ms Dee Nolan,* Mr and Mrs Derek J Norton, Mr A W D Osmond Evans, Mr Brian Park, Mr and Mrs Ian Park, *Mr and Mrs Michael Pelham,* Mr and Mrs M Petrie, Commander Francis *Ponsonby*, Mr and Mrs K D Pope, Mr S D Potter, Mr and Mrs Jeff Powell, Mr Andrew Preston, Mr Simon Prior-Palmer, Mrs Francis Pym, Mr Christopher Raeburn, Mr R A Randall, Mrs Louis Rawlings, Mr S Ray, Mr *John Reedman, Miss Sue Reeves,* Mrs Edward Remington-Hobbs, Mr Tony Rennell, *Ms Glenys Roberts*, Mr and Mrs Alwyn A Robinson, Mrs J B Rosenberg, Mrs Jackie Rosenfeld, Miss Natalia Rosenstein, Mr and Mrs J H L Royle.

Mr Rolf Sachs, Mr F L Sainsbury, Mrs Gigi Salomon, Mr and Mrs Timothy Sammons, Mr James G Sanger, Mr George St J N C Sayn, *Dr Hans-Georg Schneider, Mr and* Mrs C J Scott-Drysdale, Mr Charles Sinclair, Mr D H Sewell, Dr Khalid Sharif, Miss J M Shepherd, Mr Bernard Shrimsley, Mr and Mrs Milton Shulman, Dr and Mrs Andrew Sinclair, Mr Francis Sitwell, Mr Dereck F Smith, Mr and Mrs P S Smith, Mr Terence *Sollis, Mr R J Stephens, Mr Stewart Stevens,* Mr and Mrs V T Stokes; Mr Michael Szell, *Mr B Summerskill*, Mr and *Mrs Percival G* Sutton, Ms Felicity Swan, *Mr and Mrs N C* Swindells, Mr Richard Tarling, Dr S J Taylor, *Mr John K Teasdale, Mr J B Thompson, Mr* Nigel Truefitt, Mrs Walter Tuckwell, Mr and *Mrs B Vine, Mr Alexander Walker, Mr* Patrick Walker, Mr Keith Waterhouse, Mr Geoffrey Watts, Mrs J Willis, Mr J S Wallwork, Mr Ray Weaver, Mr and Mrs R Wharton; Mr Michael White, Mr W A Geoffrey A White, Mr Leonard G Williams, Mr Peter Williams, Mr Henry Wrong, Mr E J Winnington-Ingram, Mrs Vera T Wood, Mr R K Wright, Mr and Mrs Paul Zwillenberg.

Representatives of the Brunswick Group, Foote, Cone and Belding, Air Transport *Auxiliary Association, Leigh & Barron Con*sulting, the Press Complaints Commission, *Boles* Diamond Jewellers, Everyman's Library, Royal Society, Central & Eastern Europe, DMG Radio, Christie's, Lewis Silkin Solicitors, Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir, UPM-Kymmene, Friends of War Memorials, Pegg Haindl, Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation in Great Britain, Bristol United *Press, Newspaper Press Fund and many other* friends, associates, pensioners and other past and present members of the group.

SIMON WALKER

Lord and Lady Rothermere, and the Dowager Lady Rothermere yesterday

Birthdays today

Mr Ronald Allison, author and broadcaster, 67; Admiral Sir Des*mond Cassidi, 74; Mr Timothy* Clifford, director, National Galleries of Scotland, 53; Mrs Margaret Daly, former MEP, 61; Mr Martin Dunn, former Editor, *Today*, 44; Mr Christopher Hampton, playwright, 53; Mr Ronnie Hilton, entertainer, 73; Mr Kim Hughes, cricketer, 45; Professor Marie Jahoda, Professor Emeritus of Social Psychology, Sussex University, 92; the Right Rev David Jenkins, former Bishop of Durham, 74; *Miss Eartha Kitt, singer, 71;* Mr S.J.B. Langdale, former Headmaster, Shrewsbury School, 62; Mrs Anne Macfarlane, *former Master* of the Court of Protection, 69; Mr William McLennan, former chief executive, Central Statistical Office, 57.

Mr Akio Morita, KBE, founder and honorary chairman, Sony Corporation, 78; Mr Paul Newman, actor, 74; Dr Paul Nurse, FRS, director-general, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 50; Mr Christopher Price, *former* Principal, Leeds Metropolitan University, 67; Mr A.N. Solomons, chair*man, Singer and Friedlander, 69;* the Ven Arthur C. Smith, Archdeacon Emeritus of Lincoln Cathedral, 90; Sir Charles Tidbury, former chairman, Whitbread and Company, 73; Mr M.R. Turner, publisher, 70; Mr Nigel Walmsley, chairman, Carlton UK Television, 57.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.E. Barrett and Miss J.M.P. O'Gorman
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mrs Barrett and the late Mr John Barrett, formerly of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian O'Gorman, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr C.P.J. Bourne and Miss E.S. Wood
The engagement is announced between Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs Richard Bourne, of Tilford, Surrey, and Emily, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Wood, of Hascombe, Surrey.

Mr P.K.R. Foot and Miss A.K. Richards
The engagement is announced between Paris, eldest son of Mr Keith Foot and the late Mrs Foot, of Molo, Kenya, and Amelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Richards, of Ramsden, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.M. Henfrey and Miss C.M. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Henfrey, of Spurstow, Cheshire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Hughes, of Winnersh, Berkshire.

Lieutenant R.P.H. Hutchings, RN, and Miss S.C. Hardcastle
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr Hugh Pilkington-Cushion, of New Malden, Surrey, and of Mrs Judy Hutchings, of East Mersea, Essex, and Sophie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hardcastle, of Dunsfold, Surrey.

Mr C.A. Jones and Miss A.R. Heath
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Alan Jones, of Cambridge, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Heath, of Cabus, Garstang, Lancashire.

Mr C. Palmer and Miss C. May
The engagement is announced between Charles, third son of the late Mr and Mrs T.H.B. Palmer, of Detling, Kent, and Collette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. May, of Springfield, Essex.

Mr A.F. King and Miss N.S. Walduck
The engagement is announced between Alistair, eldest son of Mr Nigel King, of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, and Mrs Christine Priest, of Yeovil, Somerset, and Natasha, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Walduck, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.F.L. Lloyd and Miss N.F. Good
The engagement is announced between Lyndon, eldest son of Mr David Lloyd, of Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Gillian Lloyd, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Natalie, only daughter of Dr Harvey Montgomery Good, of San Francisco, and the late Mrs Christine Good, formerly of London.

Mr S.A. Marston and Miss V.G. Davies
The engagement is announced between Stuart, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Marston, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Davies, of Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Mr T.J. Morley and Miss A.M. Williams
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs R.L. Morley, of Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, and Anne, only daughter of the late Mr E.I. Williams and of Mrs Williams, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr M. Riley and Miss J.M. Hook
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mr J.W. Riley, of Kirkham, Lancashire, and Mrs E. Frances, of Primrose Hill, London, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Hook, of York.

Mr W.R.S. Sitwell and Miss L.B. McCorquodale
The engagement is announced between William Ronald Sacheverell, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Sitwell, of Weston Hall, Towcester, Northamptonshire, and Laura Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Euan McCorquodale, of St Boswells Bank, Melrose, Roxburghshire.

Dinners

Cardiff Business Club
The President of Cardiff Business Club, Mr C.N.D Coles, and the *Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan*, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Park Hotel, Cardiff last night. The Guest Speaker was Mr A.R. Lewis, President, Marylebone Cricket Club. Mr Gareth Edwards, Chairman, Hamdden, Hyder plc, presided.

The Chamber of Shipping
Mr David Cobb, JP, President of The Chamber of Shipping, presided at the Annual Dinner of The Chamber held at the London Hilton on Park Lane on Monday, January 25. Dr John Reid, Minister of State, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, was principal guest. Mr J. Miles Duncan also spoke. Among the other guests were:

Mr William O'Neil, Viscount Runciman of Doxford, Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Mr J.A. Hadjipateras and Mr Westfal Larsen.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Psalm 119.33-34 (NIV).

BIRTHS

AGGARWAL - On January 21st at The Portland Hospital to Suman and Ajay, a daughter, Anya.

BAGGIO - On January 20th at The Portland Hospital *to Laura (née Di Giorgio)* and Armando, a beautiful son, Edoardo.

BROCHE - On January 22nd at *The Portland Hospital* to Natalie and Jirancois, a *son, Elliott, a brother for* Elmaa.

CHAIMI - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital to *Michal* (née van Dijk) and Ofer, a daughter, Amit Noga.

CIOFFI - On January 15th at The Portland Hospital to Patricia (née Hamzahee) and *Angelo*, a daughter, Alexandra, and a son, *Armando.*

COE - On January 19th at The Portland Hospital to Therese (née Johansson) and *Ian, a daughter,* Louisa.

DARGAN - *On 21st January* 1999 to Nicholas and *Alison Whitelaw at the* Queens Medical Centre, *Nottingham, a beautiful* daughter, Scarlett Elizabeth.

EDGE - On the 21st January *to Violet (née Vyner) and* Richard, a daughter, Isobel *Rose, sister for George.*

ERASMUS - On January 18th *at The Portland Hospital* to Maureen (née Haffey) and *Lewrie, a son,* Nicholas.

GELL - *On January 16th to* Alida (née Bargpeter) and Hugo, *a daughter.*

KEMP - On January 19th at *The Portland Hospital to* Renata (née Helmich) and Richard, *a son, Jonathan* Michael.

LEES - On January 21st at The Portland Hospital to Susan (née Kur) and Matthew, a son, Joshua David.

LONGSDON - On January 22nd to Fiona (née Cassidy) and James, a son.

MAYER - On January 19th at *The Portland Hospital to* Irmela and Peter, a son, *Charles Christopher*, the newest member of the *family.*

NDOUTOUMEBE - On January 21st at The Portland Hospital to Juliette and Joseph, a son, Oliver Fernand.

NENDICK - Ian and Emma (née Copeland) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Zoe Frances Copeland, on 5th January 1999 at The Rosie *Maternity Hospital,* Cambridge.

PAYNE - On 23rd *January* 1999 at 22.24 to Daniel and Joanna Payne, a little boy, Bertie James. Hello and welcome to all from Bertie James Payne!!

RENDLE/DORIS - On January 16th 1999 in Bristol to Andrew and Anna, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Jane.

BIRTHS

ROBERTS - On January 22nd, to Vanessa (née Wright) and Matthew, a daughter, *Camilla Rosemary* Trophena.

ROWAN HAMILTON - On January 21st to Polly (née Martin) and Gawn, a son, Jake Douglas.

SMYTHE - On 25th January 1999 to Michell and Charles a healthy boy, Daniel George, born at 1.38pm at Royal London Hospital, weighing 8lbs 10ozs.

TAMLYN - On 18th January to Katherine and Alex, a son, James Ralph Hugo.

TAYLOR - On January 16th at The Portland Hospital to Lucy (née Howlett) and Timothy Charles, a son, Henry Charles.

VON DER HEYDE - On 19th December to Serena (née Powell-Shedden) and Alexander, a son, Gabriel Heinrich Sigismund.

WELLS - On January 21st to Kathryn (neé Gordon) and Kit, a daughter, Victoria Heather, a sister for Josephine.

WHITTOME - On January 21st 1999, to Lucy (née Broke) and Ashley, a daughter, Allegra Amber Joanna, a sister for Vere.

WILLETT - On 17th September 1998 to Eileen (née Wada) and Andrew, a son, George John Wada, a brother for Matthew and James.

WONG - On January 14th at The Portland Hospital to Penelope and Andrew, a son, Timothy Say, a brother for Emily.

DEATHS

BARCLAY - Janet Evelyn Lucas (née Man) suddenly on Friday 22nd January at home. Beloved wife of the late John Barclay and adored mother of Rachel and Jane. A very special and much loved grandmother, mother-in-law, aunt, great-aunt, great great-aunt, cousin and friend to so many. She will be greatly missed. Funeral service at Rolvenden Parish Church on Thursday 28th January 2.30 pm. Please come. Donations if desired to L'Arche or Arthritis Research c/o C W Lyons and Son, 70 Military Road, Canterbury, Kent 01227 463508.

BARNES - Patricia Mary, suddenly at home on 30th December 1998. Funeral to be held at Yeovil Crematorium on 5th February 1999 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. *Donations, if desired, to* the British Heart *Foundation. Enquiries to* 0118 973 3387.

BARNSLEY - Michael died 21st January 1999 peacefully. Dear husband and best friend of Marsha. Only son of Diana and the late Paul. Will be very sadly missed. Funeral Service in The Lady Chapel of Hereford Cathedral at 12 noon on Saturday 30th January. No black ties please. No flowers. Donations may be sent to Choral Foundation Hereford Cathedral.

DEATHS

BLACK - Sam MBE Professor International Public Relations. January 23rd aged 84. Funeral at St Andrews Church, Totteridge Lane, Thursday 28th at 2.30 and at 3.30 at Golders Green Crematorium. Family flowers only.

BOOSEY - Ethel Torfrida, peacefully at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, on January 21st, in her 100th year. Dearly loved wife of the late Leslie Boosey. Much loved mother of Anthony, Torfrida, Simon and Nigel. Beloved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at 12 noon on February 8th at All Saints' Church, Denmead. Family flowers only, or donations *if wished to the* Portsmouth Hospital Rocky Appeal (Kidney Dialysis), c/o J Edwards *and Son Funeral* Directors, 13 St. George's Walk, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 7TO; 017052 63194.

BURGESS - On Thursday 21st January 1999, peacefully, Lillian Margaret Colvin (Ann) aged 94, *widow of* Freddy Burgess, much loved mother of Joanna and Victoria, grandmother of Catharine Staughton and Sarah Donaldson, great grandmother of Douglas and Mairi. Funeral Service at Chelsea Old Church on Wednesday 3rd February at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but donations *if desired to* *Fulham Good Neighbours,* 378 Lillie Road, SW6 7PH.

CHITTY - Toby of Edmonstone passed away peacefully on 22nd January 1999, aged 94 years. Funeral Service on Monday 1st February, 2pm at Holy Trinity Church, Hertford Heath, *Hertfordshire. Flowers* may be sent to Powell Funeral Service, 83 Railway Street, Hertford. Tel 01992 509611.

CURLEY - Edna Alice on 22nd January 1999 peacefully at Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham after a very long and brave fight against cancer. Much loved wife to Paul and mother to Michael, Graham and Paul. Service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on Tuesday 2nd February at 11.00 am. Family flowers only, but donations to Cancer Research Campaign c/o Camberley & District Funeral Directors (01276 33241), would be much appreciated.

CONNORTON - Cecil 'Paddy' of Peckham and Hong Kong on 15th January aged 82. Funeral at Aldershot Crematorium at 11.30 am on Friday 29th January. Donations if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society.

CULBERT - Edward (Ted) Arthur, Brig. RAR, unexpectedly and peacefully passed away 20th January 1999, aged 73. Sorely missed by Irene, Moyra, Ian and Richard. Funeral service at York Crematorium 9 am Friday. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Erskine Hospital for Disabled Service Men and Women, Bishopton, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

De MORGAN - Diana Ann (actress *Diana Hope*) died on 23rd January. Funeral Service *Tuesday 2nd* February, 11.15am at St. Anne's Church, Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey. *Flowers, or donations* to Denville Hall Actors' Home, c/o Andrew Holmes and Son F/D, 0181 744 1125.

EDWARDS - Kenneth Charles Stuart Dr. M.R.C. Psych D.P.M. January 24th 1999. Peacefully in hospital of Highcroft, Llandyrnog, Denbigh, North Wales. Dearly loved and sadly missed by all his family. Funeral on Friday January 29th. Service at Llandyrnog Parish Church at 11 am followed by interment at The Churchyard. Family flowers only. Donations in *memory, if desired,* to The Ruthin Community Cancer Care Fund would be appreciated.

FFRENCH-CONSTANT - Diny. On January 22nd 1999, in Cornwall. Peaceful at last after a prolonged struggle with Alzheimers. Beloved wife of Paul, mother of Sally, Edward, Tanya and Juliet and grandmother of nine. Funeral Service at St Feock Church, near Truro on Friday January 29th at 11.00am. Funeral Director *Howard Burrows,* Penelewey, Feock, Truro. *01872 863917.*

GADD - *Michael John of* Bearsted, Maidstone. Much loved husband of Pam and father to Steve, Chris and Andrew, *died in* The Heart of Kent Hospice *on Monday 25th January* after a long illness, borne *with great courage and* dignity. A service of thanksgiving for *Mike's* life will be held on *Saturday 30th January* at 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Bearsted. *All* welcome, but no black ties please. No *flowers* but donations to THe Heart of Kent *Hospice via Viners and* Sons, Funeral Directors, 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6LU.

GRANT - John Joseph Richard of Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye, much loved brother of Bernard and Michael. On 21st January, after a long illness. Also his beloved wife, Annie, on 5th January 1999. Funeral to be held at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Hay-on-Wye, on Thursday 28th January at 2pm. Enquiries to Clive James, Undertaker, 01497 847410. Flowers or donations to Macmillan Nurses at Bronllys Hospital, Powys. RIP.

HANCOX - On January 23rd 1999 peacefully at home in Cobham, Edwina. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead Friday January 29th at 10.00 am. No flowers, but donations to Muscular Dystrophy c/o F W Paine, 108 High Street, Esher, Surrey KT10 9QJ.

HARRIS - Bryan Alfred, of Sidmouth, on January 21st, 1999, suddenly at home, aged 71 years. Beloved husband of Hazel, much loved father of Alexandra and Andrew and dear grandfather of Olivia, Annabel, Lucinda, Jessica and Matthew. (Former Senior partner of Every & Phillips, Solicitors). Funeral Service at St Giles & St Nicholas Church, Sidmouth on Saturday January 30th at 10.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers *only but donations, if* desired, to British Heart *Foundation c/o Potbury's* Funeral Service, High Street, Sidmouth, please.

HARRISON - Squadron *Leader Robert Neal* (Bobbie) DFC RAF (Ret'd) on 23rd January 1999 peacefully after a long illness. Much loved husband of Nancy, father of Noel, Rodney and Randal, grandfather of Victoria, Ursula, Catherine and Christopher. Funeral at St Leonards Church, Minety on Tuesday 2nd February at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to *the RAF Benevolent Fund,* c/o Rex Carter, Funeral *Director, High Road,* Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wilts SN6 6NX.

HILL - *Rowland*, previously of Durham Terrace. Ex Cunard and Royal Household, passed peacefully away, January 21st in his home town of Worcester.

HILLOCK - *Phyllis* Dr (née Lyne) on January 23rd 1999, peacefully in Exeter aged 86 years. Widow of Dr John Hillock and a beloved aunt. Funeral Service Monday February 1st, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, South Street, Exeter, 10 am Mass, followed by interment at Highweek Parish Churchyard. Donations to Exeter Hospice. Enquiries: Sillifants 01392 272688.

HUGHES - On January 24th at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in her 82nd year. Dr Lettice Mary Hughes, (née Robertson), of Trevor House, Chirk, widow of Dr John Rowland Hughes FRCS, beloved mother of Judy and grandmother of Chloe and Nicola.

KING-LEWIS - On January 21st, peacefully, Irene Beryl (Rene). Wife of the *late Brigadier Humphrey* King-Lewis, mother of the late Michael and dearly loved grandmother of Claire and Elaine. Cremation at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Monday 1st February at 11.30 am. No flowers, donations to British Heart Foundation c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1SD.

LAURENCE - Jessica beloved wife of George and mother of Tom, Cathy and Ben died peacefully at home on Friday 22nd January. Funeral at All Saints Church, Coleshill, Buckinghamshire, 1.30 pm Wednesday 27th January. Family flowers only; donations if desired to NSPCC.

LAWRENCE - Suddenly at home on 24th January, John J.A. of Tunbridge Wells, aged 61 years. Dearly loved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother. Requiem Mass at St Augustine's R.C. Church, Tunbridge Wells, at 10.30 am on Tuesday 2nd February. Followed by interment in Tunbridge Wells Cemetery. There will be a gathering for friends who knew John and his *family, after the interment.* Family flowers only please *but donations if desired to* LIFE, c/o T.W. Boorman Funeral Services, 31 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8AA. Telephone 01892 541070.

LECKY - *On 22nd January* 1999 peacefully in Fordingbridge Hospital, John, aged 87 - for more than 30 years a dedicated schoolmaster at Pembroke *Lodge* and Sandle Manor. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge *on* Friday 29th January at *3pm. Family flowers only.* Donations, if desired, to *Friends of Forres Sandle* Manor, Fordingbridge, SP6 1NS.

LEWIN - T.T. Adm. of the Fleet, Lord, peacefully with his family, after a short illness. Private Cremation. No flowers by request, donations if desired to the Shipwreck Mariners Society or Animal Line to E.B. Button & Sons Ltd., 24 St John's Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1EB. Tel: 01394 382160.

LLEWELLYN-DAVIES - Cathleen Mary, sometime Central Secretary of the Mothers' Union, died on January 21st 1999, aged 89, of bronchopneumonia. A private family funeral on February 4th will be followed, at a date to be announced, by a Memorial Service at the Mary Sumner House. No flowers but donations may be sent to the Alzheimers Disease Society, Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1PH.

MASKELL - Vera Beatrice, on 22nd January, peacefully in her sleep at home after a long and typically courageous struggle against illness, aged 84. Dearly loved wife of the late Group Captain Archibald Spencer Maskell, much loved mother of Raymond, Jacqueline and Christopher, loving grandmother and great-grandmother, and beloved *sister of Lillian and* Robert. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Reed, near Royston at 12.30 on *Friday 29th January.* Family flowers only, if *wished donations in her* memory to Macmillan *Nurses c/o Cecil Newling,* 3 Green Drift, Royston, *Herts. SG8 5DB.*

MATHEWS - Died peacefully following an accident on January 21st 1999 at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. James Patrick Ford, aged 12 years. Darling son of Ken and Margaret and loving brother of Caroline. Funeral Service to be held at St. Margaret's Church, Drayton, Norwich on Friday January 29th at 12 noon. *Flowers* to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, *85 Unthank Road,* Norwich or if desired *donations in memory of* James to the Headmaster, *Norwich School, The* Close, Norwich.

NEWSOME - Joan Florence aged 72 in the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle after a seven week illness. Beloved wife of Dr. David Newsome, former Master of Wellington College. Funeral at St. Mary's, *Thornthwaite, near* Keswick, on Friday 29th *January* at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Carlisle Crematorium *at* 3.20pm. Family flowers only, donations *if desired* to the Intensive Care Unit, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.

NICOLL - Alex Cdr, RN, retired. Peacefully at home on Saturday 23rd January aged 78. Loving husband of Prue, father of Paul, Tony and Gillian, father-in-law and grandfather. Service of Thanksgiving 2.30pm, Friday 5th February, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Darby Road, Haslemere. No flowers, donations if wished to RNLI or King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst.

PAYNE - Angela, died peacefully at home on Sunday, January 24th. Much loved wife of Michael, mother of Susie, Sally, Tom and William, and grandmother of Sophie, Lucy, Louis, Ben, Sam, Daniel and Chloe. Funeral service at St Mary's, College Road, Bromley on Thursday February 4th at 11 am, and then at Beckenham Crematorium. Flowers to J & B Killick Ltd, 112 High Street, West Wickham, Kent, 0181 777 4502; donations to South Bromley Hospice, Orpington Hospital, Orpington, Kent.

PENNINGTON - Jill Lovat (née Syme), widow of Professor Barry Pennington, much loved mother of Sue, Moby, Sarah and Kate, *died after* a long illness on 15th January 1999. Funeral 2pm, 29th January, St *Peter's Parish Church,* Radford, Nottingham. Donations to Alzheimers Disease Society. Contact and donations: c/o Baguleys Funeral *Directors*, 500 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG5 2FB, tel: 0115 960 5197.

PHILLIPS - *Elizabeth,* peacefully at home on January 23rd after a long illness. Beloved wife of William and much loved mother of Catherine and Flora. Funeral Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Newick, Sussex, on Saturday January 30th at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o R.A. Brooks & Son, Ravenoak, Allington Road, Newick, East Sussex, tel: (01825) 722696 or (01444) 464391.

POLLARD - *The Rev. Noel.* Went to be with his Lord *on January 21st.* Much loved husband of Margaret, *father of* Sarah, Ruth, Frances and Timothy, and grandfather of Isaac. Private family funeral. Thanksgiving Service later. Donations in his memory to the hospice and neurosurgery ward. Cheques to The Arthur Rank House' and 'Addenbrookes Charities - NCCU', sent to B. Warner, 4 Harshel Court, Cambridge CB1 7UB.

ROBINSON - *Clifford, Priest* and true servant of God. Most dearly loved husband of Anne, father of David and Midge, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend to so many, after a short but overwhelming illness bravely borne. He died peacefully on Wednesday January 20th aged 75 years. His funeral will be on Tuesday February 2nd at 12 noon in St. James Church, Styvechale, Coventry followed by family committal at Canley Crematorium Coventry. Family flowers only please but if you wish donations may be sent to the Co-operative Funeral Service 11 Lower Holyhead Road Coventry, *for* Myton Hospice or the Macmillan Nurses.

ROBINSON - Reverend Thomas Irven, Chaplin RAF (Rtd), then Rector of Hilmarton and Highway, Chaplain in Bahrain, Dhahran, Priest in charge Stourpaine, Durweston and Bryanston, retired 1977. Beloved husband *of* Edith (died 1996), father of Barbara, grandfather *of* Alastair and Caroline Oatey. Died 18th January after a long illness. Service of Thanksgiving, *Friday* 5th February, 11.00am St Mark's Church, Binfield. No flowers please. Donations to Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, London W14 8RL.

ROSE - Professor Horace Edgar, after a short illness died on 19th January, aged 85 years. Dearly loved husband of Yda, father to Peter, Alan, Grace and Geoffrey, and devoted Grandpa to five grandchildren. Funeral will be at noon on Tuesday 2nd February, at St. Andrew's Church, Cuffley, Hertfordshire. Family flowers only; donations for "Christoffel Blinden Mission", to sponsor a new eye unit in East Africa (Cheque only) c/o Nethercott Funeral *Directors*, 150, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts. *EN6 1AF.*

SINGER - On 22nd January in a road accident, Daniel, younger son of Alfred and Claudine Singer.

STEPHENS - Brian Alexis Fenwick died peacefully at Shrewsbury aged 82 on Tuesday, January 19th. Loved father of Nicholas, Hugo and Cecely. Formerly of Leighton Buzzard. Memorial Service to be announced later.

TATHAM - Patricia on 22nd *January 1999, aged 97* years. Widow of Berrisford *Tatham. Funeral* at St Michael's Church, Mickleham, 2.15pm, Monday 1st February. No flowers please but donations to The Friends of Box Hill c/o Sherlocks, Trellis House, 190 South Street, Dorking Surrey.

THOMAS - Stanley Michael. On January 23rd 1999, suddenly Michael aged 67 years of Ivybridge. Beloved husband of Judith, dearest father of Susan, Richard, William and Jane. A loving father-in-law and grandfather. A private family funeral followed by a *Thanksgiving* Service on Friday January 29th at St. John's Church, Ivybridge at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please, *donations if* desired made payable either *to the* Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen or the Dame Hannah Rogers School, may be sent to Walter Parson, *Riverside,* Costly Street, Ivybridge, PL21 0DB. *Tel:* (01752) 690909.

THOMAS - The Venerable Owen *aged 81, peacefully* at home on January 24th. Sadly *missed* by his wife Ann, by his three children and six grandchildren. Funeral private.

VYVYAN-ROBINSON - Arthur Frederick, peacefully at The Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro, on 20th January 1999. Much loved husband of the late Paddy, adored father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Petroc's *Church*, Padstow on Saturday 6th February 1999 at 4.00pm. *No flowers* please, donations if desired to S.A.R.A. (The Stroke and Rehabilitation Appeal), c/o Dr J Morgan's secretary, Phoenix Ward, *R.C.H. Trust*, Treliske, Truro, TR1 3LJ. My boat is small, your sea so vast, Dear Lord protect me.

WILLIAMS - Robert Dorrington peacefully after a long brave fight against illness on January 19th 1999 aged 79 years. Dearly loved husband of Stella and adored father of Daphne. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service Friday January 29th 2.30 pm Christ Church URC, Marlow. Donations in his memory to friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew or Christ Church, Marlow (for disabled access) may be sent to Mrs S Lowden Thames Leigh, Riverside, Marlow SL7 2AB.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HUTCHESON - A celebration of Stella Hutcheson's life will be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 18th February at Friends House, Euston Road (opposite Euston Station).

POLLARD - A Memorial Service will be held in Firth Hall, University of Sheffield, on 12th February at 3.30pm to commemorate the life of Professor Sidney Pollard. All his friends are welcome to attend.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

STONEHOUSE - A Service of *Thanksgiving* will be held for the life of Brian Julian Warry Stonehouse on Thursday February 11th 1999, at 11.30am in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, London SW1. A reception/lunch will follow the service. To register for this please telephone 0171 589 9483 between 2pm and 5pm weekdays. Last day for registration Monday 8th February.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BEATTIE - *Peter Christopher,* with love to-day, his birthday, and always.

JONES - Morag, Palaeobotanist. Aged 27 years. Tragically on the 1980 expedition to Mali. Always remembered.

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OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR CHARLES DUNPHIE

Major-General Sir Charles Dunphie, CB, CBE, DSO, Chairman of Vickers, 1962-67, died on January 7 aged 96. He was born on April 20, 1902.

Charles Dunphie had three careers: as a Gunner, as a commander of armoured forces and as an industrialist. He hit the headlines in the Second World War during the Tunisian campaign, when his 26th Armoured Brigade was rushed down from northern Tunisia, and succeeded in checking Rommel's breakthrough at the Kasserine Pass after the rout of the US 2nd Corps in southern Tunisia in February 1943.

The son of Sir Alfred Dunphie, a director of Coutts Bank and one-time assistant treasurer to Queen Alexandra, Charles Anderson Lane Dunphie was educated at the Royal Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth during the First World War. He intended to make his career in the Royal Navy but when the war ended the Navy reinstituted its prewar standards for eyesight (relaxed since 1914) and he failed the new eye test. He was instead offered a place at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, or at Sandhurst.

He chose Woolwich and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1921. His early service was mostly with Royal Field Artillery and Royal Horse Artillery batteries in India and England.

His career as a Gunner came to an end in 1937. In 1938 he was posted to the new experimental Mobile Division on Salisbury Plain and was thereafter involved in armoured warfare and tank development, initially with the British Expeditionary Force in France between 1939 and 1940.

In 1941 he was promoted Brigadier, Royal Armoured Corps, at General Sir Alan Brooke's GHQ Home Forces, responsible for the deployment of armoured formations as they were raised to defend England from invasion. When the German threat faded and thoughts were turning to offensive operations, he was given command of 20th Armoured Brigade. He was not destined to take it into action: he was transferred instead to command 26th Armoured Brigade which was nominated, as part of 6th Armoured Division, to be the leading British armoured formation in the Allied landings in French North Africa in November 1942.

In February 1943 the American *cri de coeur* from the Kasserine Pass brought his brigade southwards to help the US 2nd Corps. Reconnoitring the pass personally on February 20, when the Afrika Korps' assault group was attacking it, he realised that the American defence was falling apart. He ordered his motor battalion group — under Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian Gore — forward into a delaying position just north of the pass, while the rest of his brigade took up a defensive position some miles behind it, ready to block Rommel's thrust into the rear of the Allied line.

The American defence did collapse, but Dunphie's brigade fought the 10th Panzer Division to a standstill before it could reach the important town of Thala. Rommel, realising that there was no quick victory to be had at Kasserine, gave up and withdrew southwards to strike at Montgomery's Eighth Army, which had entered Tunisia and was threatening his rear. Dunphie was awarded the DSO for his action in blocking the vital Kasserine-Thala road.

General Sir Harold Alexander, who had just arrived to take command of the Tunisian front, decided that something must be done quickly to improve the handling of American formations. He persuaded General Patton, who had taken over the defeated US 2nd Corps, to accept British officers on a temporary basis in his corps, divisional and combat command headquarters. Dunphie became his Assistant Chief of Staff for the rest of the campaign, getting on extremely well with him and his staff. He was wounded and awarded the US Silver Star, but knew nothing about the award until he later met Patton, who noticed that he was not wearing the ribbon. Patton had his own cut off and pinned on Dunphie's battledress.

Dunphie returned to England in June 1943 to become deputy director of the Royal Armoured Corps in the War Office, where he was closely involved in armoured fighting vehicle development. He was a natural choice for the appointment of Director General of Fighting Vehicles in the Ministry of Supply at the end of the war. It was then but a short step into his third career as an industrialist.

In 1948 he was headhunted by Vickers, becoming managing director in 1956 and going on to be chairman from 1962 to 1967. He was on the boards of several other companies associated with the armaments industry, and also of the Westminster Bank and Royal Exchange Assurance. He ended his industrial career as chairman of English Steel. He was knighted for his services to British industry in 1959, and he was a member of Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, 1952-62.

His first marriage was in 1931 to Eileen, daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Campbell. After she died in 1978, he married in 1981 Susan, widow of Colonel P. L. M. Wright. She and the son and daughter of his first marriage survive him.

Dunphie: to the rescue of the Americans at the Kasserine Pass in 1943

JOHN HARRISON

John Harrison, prison governor, died of lung cancer on December 26 aged 55. He was born on June 15, 1943.

THE past three decades have been especially difficult in the Prison Service. Overcrowding, escapes, riots, staff industrial action and resource shortages combined to make the task of John Harrison's generation of prison governors extremely daunting. Surviving from one day to the next without disaster was too often the priority; improving establishments frequently appeared near impossible. Yet, despite this background, Harrison succeeded in keeping the establishments he governed on an even keel.

His father, N. H. Harrison, had been Governor of North Sea Camp Borstal in Lincolnshire and then Governor Class 2 of the larger Portland Borstal in Dorset. During his career, the Harrison family moved quite frequently between prison quarters estates, generally close to establishments. Working parties of offenders were frequently in evidence, so John grew up accustomed to offenders and to penal establisments.

Harrison: a flair for getting through to staff and prisoners

This stood him in good stead when he entered the Prison Service in 1969. He was always very proud of his family links with the service: for him it was never just a job. A big man, he played rugby for years, and was an England trialist. His sporting prowess, which extended far beyond rugby, helped him to build relationships with both staff and prisoners. He was a man's man, quick-witted, with a great sense of humour and a gift for telling stories, all of which led to his being liked right across the prison community.

A tough fighter for issues he regarded as important, he had a flair for getting his message across to both staff and prisoners. But he was also a very private man, with considerable inner strengths, especially noticeable in the way he coped with his final illness.

John Louis Harrison was born in St Albans. He attended Rochdale, Maidstone and Hampton Grammar Schools. On leaving school in 1961, he joined a firm of estate agents in Boston, Lincolnshire, which fostered a lifelong interest in antiques and collectibles. His rugby in this period included playing against the touring Springboks in 1969. It was also during this time that he met Christine Smith, whom he married in 1971.

In 1969, while teaching part-time at North Sea Camp, he was approached by the Governor, Michael Selby, who suggested that he might follow in his father's footsteps and join the Prison Service. After selection and training he was posted back to North Sea Camp, where one of his first jobs was to supervise a work party charged with demolishing the old prefabricated quarter that he had lived in as a boy.

His potential was quickly recognised and in September 1970 he joined the staff course at the Prison Service College, Wakefield, on promotion to assistant governor. Afterwards he was posted to Morton Hall, Lincolnshire, and then Huntercombe in Oxfordshire, both small Borstal institutions. Promotion to deputy governor came in 1978, and he moved to Rochester borstal, a reflection of his ability in work with young offenders.

In 1982, to widen his experience, he was transferred to the South East regional office. This was a time of acute population pressure, resulting in prisoners overflowing into police cells, causing considerable political embarrassment. Managing incidents and the consequences of staff strikes was also part of Harrison's brief, and he proved very good at these demanding tasks and reliable under pressure. He was soon selected for promotion to Governor Class 3 and posted to Wandsworth Prison as deputy governor, his first experience of working with adult prisoners.

Further promotion to Governor Class 2 quickly followed, and he was then given responsibility for overseeing all the young offender and women's establishments in the South East. This was the time of the introduction of "Fresh Start", a radical change to staff conditions, and Harrison quickly gained the respect of his governor colleagues.

He was given his first command in 1990, when he took charge of the Young Offender Institution at Stake Heath in Shropshire. In 1991 he transferred to Canterbury Prison, bringing him much closer to his home in Surrey. Prison populations were growing very fast as a consequence of Michael Howard's "prison works" policy. Canterbury took its share of the increase, and Harrison's priority was maintaining stability.

He was especially pleased to be selected for further promotion to Governor Class 1 in 1994, and after a short spell in charge of Frankland Maximum Security Prison near Durham and some months working on policy at Prison Service HQ, he took charge of Risley Prison in Cheshire in 1995.

Risley was a complex and unusual prison with a difficult history, but he largely succeeded in maintaining its positive regime in the face of severe budget reductions. This took all his skill and determination, and involved difficult negotiations with local trade unions. He also laid the foundations for an important initiative to tackle drug offending, something he was still developing when his final illness overcame him.

John Harrison leaves a widow, Christine, and two sons and two daughters.

THEO MATHEW

Theo Mathew, Windsor Herald at the College of Arms, 1978-97, died on December 24 aged 56. He was born on April 7, 1942.

AS ONE of the royal heralds Theo Mathew took part annually in the State Opening of Parliament, and the Garter Service at Windsor Castle. These were roles he greatly enjoyed, as he had a certain weakness for uniforms and decorations, which is not unknown in his profession.

State ceremonial is the most public aspect of the work of the heralds but the far greater part of their time is devoted to heraldic and genealogical research, entering pedigrees in the College of Arms registers, overseeing heraldic artwork and designing new coats of arms, of which about 180 are granted each year. The dry tasks of drawing up pedigrees and making searches in the college records did not always prove sufficiently diverting for Mathew's imaginative mind. Besides ceremonial, it was the creation of new arms which gave him the greatest pleasure. He would never delegate the preparation of sketches of proposed arms to a college artist but drew them himself with often painstaking attention but, as he was the first to admit, variable results.

Theobald David Mathew was born in London, the son of Robert Mathew, and Joan, elder daughter of Sir George Young, 4th Baronet. He was educated at Downside and Balliol, where he read history.

An early false start to his career provided a sharp contrast to his family's previous distinction in the legal profession — a contrast which he viewed with a characteristically perverse pride and amusement. His great-grandfather, Sir James Mathew, was, as he would often relate, a Lord Justice of Appeal; his grandfather, another Theobald Mathew, a recorder, and the author of four volumes of *Forensic Fables*; his father a solicitor; and the young Theo for a period an articled clerk with Frere Cholmeley.

Not finding the law to his liking he went to work as a research assistant to Sir Anthony Wagner, then Garter King of Arms, whose protégé he became. He served as a Green Staff Officer at the investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969 and was appointed Rouge Dragon Pursuivant the following year. He relinquished that office when advanced to Windsor Herald in 1978, with some relief, musing that at only 5ft 6in tall he failed to meet expectations of appearance, and that Rouge Dragon should be at least 6ft 6in with a thick growth of bright ginger hair.

Theo Mathew was a bachelor of modest private means, and of generally simple but occasionally extravagant and romantic tastes. A portrait of a 19th-century member of his family, Father Theobald Mathew, the Irish "Apostle of Temperance", gesturing towards gushing water, dominated the drawing room of his house in St John's Wood. While the young Theo Mathew was far from puritanical, and was always the most generous and convivial of hosts, he could not rival another family member, General Montague Mathew, who died at a dinner party in 1819, and is remembered for being one of the last "four-bottle men" in Co Tipperary.

The Mathew seat, Thomastown Castle in Co Tipperary, passed out of family ownership in the 19th century and fell into ruin. In 1938 it was bought back by David Mathew, the historian and titular Archbishop of Apamea in Bythinia, and was eventually passed by him to his kinsman Theo, whom he made his heir. Latterly Theo, although often staying with cousins in Dublin, rarely found time to visit what has been described as "one of the most spectacular of all the many ruined Gothic castles in Ireland".

Capable of finding the comic side of virtually any situation, Theo Mathew was a rich source of amusing anecdote. His sharp ear noticed the finest nuances of voice and accent, and this, combined with remarkable powers of mimicry, allowed him to tell any tale with a full range of appropriate voices.

Perhaps in part due to a similarity in stature his most perfect imitation was that of the present Duke of Norfolk who, by virtue of holding the hereditary office of Earl Marshal, has powers of supervision over the College of Arms. Often the Earl Marshal's military voice would be heard reverberating round the college libraries, causing consternation and the assumption that he was making an unannounced visit. But nearly always this would turn out to be "only Theo".

Realising that he did not have the dedication to his profession necessary to secure further advancement he watched stoically as more earnest colleagues were promoted over him. He inspired great affection and was a warm-hearted and faithful friend. In 1997 he retired from the College of Arms and moved to West Mersea in Essex, the scene of many happy childhood holidays.

Theo Mathew, Windsor Herald, seated right, with the other heralds at the State Opening of Parliament in November 1981

GENERAL BOOTH AND THE POOR

To the Editor of The Times

Sir, In the letter from "General" Booth to the Lord Mayor, published in your columns on the 20th inst, he had written that "on one night of last week during the frost and snow our officers found on one of the Thames bridges no less than 164 persons of various ages without any sort of shelter or protection from the weather than that provided by the parapets surrounding the recesses of the footpaths. Here most of these poor creatures remained all night." The facts thus stated at once received an absolute denial from the Lord Mayor and from Colonel Henry Smith, the Police Commissioner; and it was pointed out by the latter than no one is allowed to remain at night on any of the bridges within the jurisdiction of the City Police.

Thus challenged, "General" Booth writes to you on the 23rd inst, that he might through inadvertence have stated that the 164 homeless people were "on the bridge", but that they certainly were either upon or "in immediate proximity" to the bridge, whatever the last phrase may mean. It is something, perhaps, to gain an admission from the "General" that the crowded "recesses" were a delusion introduced into his picture of London distress by what he calls inadvertence. But he does not retreat with good grace; the 164 sufferers are merely shifted to a locality almost impossible to identify; and you may therefore think that the following further information throws some useful light upon a subject which, however tiresome it has become, must remain of interest to the public so long as "General" Booth's appeal for money continues.

First, then, in reference to the question whether the London bridges are frequented at night by homeless and penniless persons, I went last night to Blackfriars Bridge — the bridge supposed to be referred to by "General" Booth — and I walked the bridge on both sides between 12 and 1 o'clock, examining the recesses. There was not a single person who had the appearance of being penniless or homeless; there was not a single person in any of the recesses; and the police constable on the bridge, who had done duty there at night for the last three months, informed me that the statement made by "General" Booth were without foundations.

But I can supply a more instructive test than the experience of a single night. There is, in another part of London, in one of the poor districts of Westminster, a well-known charitable institution called the Newport Market Refuge, where men and women are taken in for seven consecutive nights and fed gratuitously. What has been the experience of the officials there as to the distress of this winter? I find that during the whole month of November the refuge was not full on a single night. Similarly throughout December there were vacant beds every night. And it was not till the 5th of this month that they became full. I think these facts are somewhat significant when it is borne in mind that the Metropolitan Police are in the habit of directing destitute persons of all sorts to the refugue.

Your obedient servant,
LOFTUS LEIGH PEMBERTON.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 26, 1891

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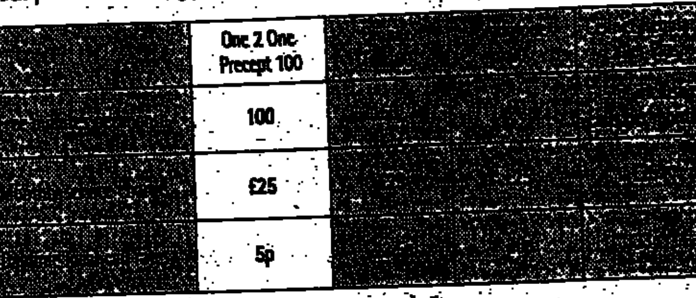

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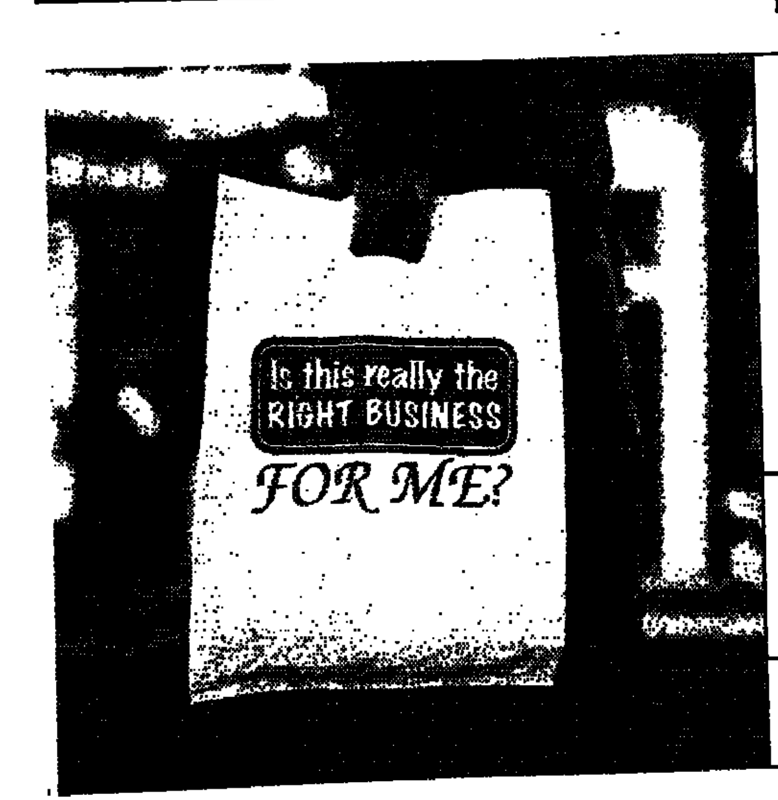

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BRITISH FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE

HSBC Midland Bank

NatWest appoints 93 area franchise managers

Stern: growth in Europe

By Rodney Hobson

NATWEST BANK has consolidated its position as the leading bank providing services to franchising by appointing a network of franchise managers located around the country.

Some of the 93 new area franchise managers will be at the National Franchise Exhibition at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, next week. NatWest will retain its head office staff of eight under Peter Stern, who has been head of franchising for 16 years.

He said the network, intended to cover the whole of England, Scotland and Wales, had been developed in response to the continued growth of franchising in the UK. Recruiting has taken place over the past nine months.

Mr Stern said: "The introduction of our new franchise managers is another positive step in helping new and existing customers to succeed in this growth area. Franchising is big business, accounting for a fifth of all UK retail sales. Not only is franchising taking off in the UK — in Europe we are seeing rapid growth. That is why last year we went into partnership with four leading European banks."

NatWest is currently compiling its annual survey in conjunction with the British Franchise Association. Results will be published in March. Last year franchising turnover was reported at £7 billion, with 568 franchise systems operating 29,100 outlets and employing 273,800 people.

Total franchise turnover in Europe is estimated at more than £60 billion, with more than 3,800 franchises operating 167,000 franchised outlets and employing 1.5 million people.

CII, the organiser of the G-Mex exhibition on February 5 and 6, reports that 75 stands have been booked. They include Signs Express, which will begin its 1999 recruitment campaign at the event.

David Corbett, managing director of Signs Express, said: "We believe there are significant opportunities for signage business, especially in the North of England, where we would like to open more outlets."

Also taking part will be Kall Kwik, the print and design franchise, which achieved total turnover of more than £70 million last year. CII also organises annual franchise exhibitions at Wembley and in Glasgow.

Miller Freeman, organiser of the franchise exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, said that 11,224 visitors attended the event last October.

It is the first time that the attendance has been audited independently by ABC. The figure excludes organisers, NEC personnel and re-entries.

Futurekids, one of the fastest-growing franchises in the country, will be taking a stand at Manchester. It provides computer literacy training for children, adults and teachers and already operates in 75 countries, training 100,000 children a year.

It was founded in Los Angeles in 1983 on the premise that learning computer skills would be as important as learning to read and write. In Britain, it works in partnership with the Institute of Education, the University of London, the Joint Examining Board and, in hospital schools, the National Association for the Education of Sick Children.

Signs point to prospect of growth

By Rodney Hobson

AN EVER-GROWING list of franchises, many in areas not previously covered by franchise systems, is on offer to would-be entrepreneurs.

A new franchise has been set up to service and manage estate agency "For Sale" signboards. Called Agency Express, it offers estate agency chains and independent operators a cost-effective method for erecting, servicing and removing property signs.

There are about 1½ million "For Sale" boards outside properties in Britain at any one time. Fewer than half of all properties on the market had boards outside ten years ago. Now the figure is almost 80 per cent.

Despite indications that the housing market could slow down along with the rest of the economy, Agency Express is stepping up its search for franchisees across the country. It claims that when the market is depressed and it is difficult to sell houses, a greater percentage of properties on the market have sale signs outside.

In addition, Agency Express said it has spotted lucrative new opportunities for shorter-term signs including homes for rent and commercial properties for leasing. The franchise system is an offshoot of Signs Express, which is based in Norwich and now has 65 outlets. The initial cost of an Agency Express franchise is £9,950, which includes a ten-year agreement, the deposit on a van and specialist equipment.

After the success of pilot operations last year, Wicked Wheels is ready to recruit two franchisees a month. An investment costs £25,000. Wicked Wheels is a mobile alloy wheels refurbishment service designed to make corroded and damaged wheels look like new.

Stephen Wood, of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, spent £300,000 and two years developing mobile equipment that can shotblast, repair, repaint and relacquer alloy wheels from cars, vans and motorcycles.

Mr Wood said: "Car dealers and fleet managers can add hundreds of pounds to the value of their used vehicles by bringing them back to 'as new'. It is an easy message to sell in a market that we have already proven with out sister franchise business Paint Technik." The service is also aimed at classic car specialists. The cost is about £30 a wheel.

Prospective franchisees ought to check out any franchise system and if possible talk to existing franchisees before signing up. New franchise systems should have run a pilot project.

Class of their own: ex-teachers David and Julie Mitchell prefer handbells to school bells

Husband and wife are crying good team

Bernard Silk meets a couple who rang the changes to be town criers

DAVID and Julie Mitchell claim to be the world's first husband-and-wife team of town criers.

Both former teachers, they find running their own business more congenial than the classroom these days.

Mr Mitchell had arranged for a town crier to waken his wife-to-be with a bellowed proclamation outside her window on their wedding day in 1989.

The crier cried off — he was double-booked — so Mr Mitchell borrowed his spare bell and robes and did the job himself.

"I thought it was fun," he says. "I began to deputise as a town crier on a part-time basis in Chester and soon became a town crier in my own right in some surrounding towns."

He left teaching in 1992 and combined a new career in calligraphy — in which he produces bespoke wedding invitations, town-twinning charters, official documents, poems and certificates — with being a town crier.

Now he and Mrs Mitchell are the official town criers in Chester. From May to August, they declaim in the town five days a week. They welcome tourists in up to eight languages and boom forth local histories and announcements, and they have been hired to do six public proposals of marriage, all of which were accepted.

The couple have taken part in town crier competitions, winning trophies all over Britain, and in Australia and Canada. So, what does the aspiring town crier need?

"You must have confidence and a loud voice — but not simply to shout like a sergeant-major," says Mr Mitchell. "You have to modulate your delivery and be prepared to be spontaneous. And you must have great legs to wear the tights."

The outfit does not come cheap. It costs from about £1,500 and it is a false economy to skimp, the couple say. Fortunately, Mrs Mitchell has another skill. She makes liveries for town criers and recently received an order from a town in Victoria, Australia.

The coat, which is made of pure wool and trimmed with gold lace, may take 100 hours to complete and costs £750. A hat and bell might cost £50 apiece.

Even with all their sidelines, Mr Mitchell finds time to give an after-dinner presentation, entitled "For crying out loud", at £120 a time. The couple's annual turnover is a comparatively modest £22,500 because the employment is mainly seasonal.

They charge a minimum of £40 for a turnout in the Chester area. Long-distance jobs may cost several hundred pounds, subject to negotiation, with the client paying travel costs. The couple work together and solo.

Mrs Mitchell says that you need to be a combination of an entertainer and a civic official, adding: "You can't be a wimp because you have to deal with comments and quips from the crowd, sometimes taking the mickey, in an interesting and amusing way. In the business, it's called conviviality and public friendliness. You have to take to people because they constantly approach you."

Town criers go back into the mists of time. They told the populace about news, impending visits of royalty, and deaths of local people and gave warning of floods and epidemics. Nowadays there are about 150 town criers in the UK, most employed on an occasional basis. About 10 per cent of town criers are women, and they take part on an equal basis in competitions against their male counterparts.

"Last year's runner-up world champion was a woman," said Mrs Mitchell, "and in 1997 the loudest decibels in a competition came from a woman crier."

☐ *David and Julie Mitchell are on 01244 311736.*

Town centres get smart to win back shoppers

A SMARTCARD has been introduced to win shoppers back to town centres, where independent businesses have complained for years about unfair competition from superstores (Rodney Hobson writes).

The card is already in use in more than 150 shops in Nottingham.

Paul Ashley, managing director of Touch, a London company that has developed the card first in Nottingham at the city council's invitation, said: "Our aim is to bring customers back into high streets and fight out-of-town hypermarkets."

Knickerbox has already signed up for smartcards

Although the Nottingham signatories include big businesses such as Ravel and Knickerbox, most are small independent companies. These have been more prompt in their dealings with the card issuer.

"It is easier to get a decision from the small company," said Mr Ashley. "The matter does not have to be referred to anybody else."

Card users in Nottingham receive a 2 per cent discount on purchases and savings of up to 10 per cent at the city council's indoor leisure centres.

A participating business receives a free list of all cardholders from Touch but pays for research data, such as the age bracket of its customers, so that it can mailshot similar shoppers.

Touch is about to issue the card in Maidstone, Kent, and is in discussions to start a scheme in Bristol. Studies of the possibility of a card are to be carried out in Manchester and Cambridge, and sights have been set on Southampton, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Oxford, Norwich, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Tamworth, Staffordshire, and Southend, Essex.

☐ Jones Lang Wootton, the property consultancy, is in talks with two unnamed London districts on regeneration of their centres. The consultancy has previously advised other towns and cities, including Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne. The adviser aims for a mix of shops, restaurants and leisure establishments and recommends policies to make town centres safe, clean, accessible and pleasurable to visit.

John McSherry, a partner in the firm's shopping centre management team, said: "We try to bring together the local authority, the landowners and all interested parties to improve town centres."

Briefs

So many small companies complain that recruiting is time-consuming and expensive that a free service, in which applicants take a job on a three-week trial, has been started in South London.

The service, Working Advantage, set up by the Employment Service and Solotec, the area's training and enterprise council, brings employer and applicant together without charge.

However, the jobseeker works unpaid for the three-week trial and retains all social security payments under an agreement with the Benefits Agency. If the applicant is taken on permanently, Working Advantage pays the employer £300 to cover expenses. Working Advantage may also make a contribution to the cost of any training scheme undertaken by the new employee. *Inquiries: 0800 800222.*

☐ Small businesses and small customers are among the slowest payers of invoices, according to the latest quarterly survey by the Institute of Credit Management. Very large businesses and central government are also culprits, the institute says. Firms in a long-term relationship tend to pay quickly. The survey found that cashflow was the main reason for late payment, followed by intentional late payment.

☐ A trade mission to the Philippines has been organised for May 3 to 7 by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Cost of the package is £1,070. Inquiries: 0121-450 4205.

☐ The Federation of Small Businesses marks its 25th anniversary with its annual conference at Blackpool, near to Lytham St Anne's, where the organisation was formed. Michael Wills, the new Small Firms Minister, will put in an appearance and the main business speaker is Sir Christopher Harding, president of the Prince's Youth Business Trust. The conference, on March 19 to 21, will be attended by more than 500 delegates.

Radar homes in on smallest employers

By Brian Collett

A CONFERENCE has been called by the charity Radar to encourage small businesses to employ disabled people.

Many of the businesses targeted by Radar — the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation — have fewer than 15 staff and are not covered by the legislation on employing disabled people.

Radar will offer specific advice for businesses and will detail the kind of "reasonable adjustments" that the legislation stipulates should be made to accommodate disabled employees. "This may be as simple as giving somebody time off for physiotherapy," said Nick Goss, Radar's education, training and employment officer.

He believes that operating and monitoring a policy on disabled employees is easier in a business with a small staff. Allowing staff to work from home could also be easier to monitor.

The conference is at the Royal College of Physicians on April 19. Small business organisations as well as employers have been invited.

Inquiries: 0171-250 3222.

Hospitality jobs to soar

"I'm hoarding for the recession"

EMPLOYMENT in London's hotel and catering business will rise at four times the capital's average employment growth rate over the next two years, a report issued today says (Brian Collett writes).

Yet this sector has the highest number of employers reporting shortages of skilled staff.

The report, drawn up by the London Skills Forecasting Unit, highlights the difficulties that small firms have in recruiting and training staff. The unit was formed by the London Tec Council, the umbrella body for the capital's seven training and enterprise councils.

The researchers say that manufacturing has the worst training record in London. Only 31 per cent of employers gave their workforce training last year. The best record was in financial services, with 79 per cent giving training.

The aim of the report, the first produced by the unit, is to show further and higher education establishments, Tecs and employers the training needed to staff London businesses and to enable people to find work. It is funded by the Tecs and the European Commission.

A two-page special report on Charter Mark, the scheme that is breeding a new culture in many of our public institutions

Top marks for serving with pride

It has not been a particularly happy new year for the public services. The influenza that swept through Britain highlighted the pressure under which much of the NHS operates. The Bramley affair reawakened concerns over adoption. Meat inspectors threatened to strike. Tony Blair expressed concern about inner-city schools. There were serious revelations about the Flying Squad. All of this suggested that there are serious weaknesses in some of our most important public institutions.

But do these headline stories typify the public service as a whole? Is every hospital brought to a halt by winter flu? Are all schools in turmoil? And what do headlines mean for the less high-profile services — libraries, leisure centres, engineers and post offices — which nevertheless play an important part in our daily lives?

The Charter Mark awards announced today — bestowed by the Government on 1,200 organisations — go some way to restoring the balance. First awarded by John Major, the Charter Mark has been continued and expanded by Labour to recognise quality in the public service, encourage improvement and provide models of good practice.

But, significantly, the Charter Mark is not about money. As one winner put it: "High standards don't depend on funding alone. When put to the test, we are forced to examine how we use the money we have got. More inventive management, better communications with users and clearer standards can all help to lift the calibre of delivery without extra costs." Many of this year's recipients are receiving the award for the second time. To qualify, they have had to show that they have made significant improvements since they last entered.

Awarded for excellence

In the Derbyshire Dales Locality Health Services, the past three years have seen improved communications with the district general hospital, better co-operation with local carer and user groups and an overhaul of nursing documentation to increase efficiency. Strengthened by these improvements, the health services also managed to cope with the winter crisis by adopting a local action plan.

Underpinning these advances has been the dedication of staff. Ian Rogerson, the locality general manager, says: "Staff have been coming in to do extra work at a time when there has been a very high level of staff sickness. We cannot expect them to do this as a matter of course, but in an emergency the staff rally round. Their dedication has been impressive."

Ms B. J. Waltho, who runs the outpatients department at the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Trust, believes that the Charter Mark scheme is changing the ethos within the public service and particularly within the NHS. "It has helped to make us much more aware of the patients and their point of view," she says.

The tradition within the NHS has been that everything revolves around the consultants. Charter Mark is starting to put the patient at the centre of the service. Ms Waltho believes that the process of entering for the award is worthwhile in its own right: "The principles are very simple, very clear and we ought to be working towards them in any case. By entering for a Charter Mark, you gain the benefit of an objective external audit of your service and valuable feedback from the Cabinet Office. What's more, it is free. To get a similar service from an external consultant would cost thousands of pounds."

Ms Waltho has used the Charter Mark scheme as a development tool for her hospital. For example, it helped to inspire the launch of a regular newsletter for outpatients. When the flu epidemic struck, the hospital used the newsletter to explain what was happening and to ask users to be patient. It helped people to cope with the crisis.

Charter Mark is gaining gradual recognition from the public as a mark of quality. Significantly, the change of heart among Labour-controlled local authorities — many of whom had initially boycotted it as a piece of Conservative sleight of hand — means that Charter Mark has become acceptable across the political divide. Its place in society now looks secure.

EDWARD FENNELL

Chiltern Railways has invested more than £30 million to improve services, as well as installing CCTV to increase security at car parks

Pressure breeds success

John Young profiles some of the winners who have quietly made improvements in their field

The list of this year's award winners provides a reminder both of the variety of public services in Britain and of the potential for improvement.

The successful entrants represent sectors currently under intense critical scrutiny such as hospitals, schools and railways; there are those from more consumer-orientated areas such as tourist information and the provision of sports facilities.

There are even organisations such as the Inland Revenue and prisons. In the case of the latter, there is undoubtedly scope for improvement, but progress is not always easy to measure.

In Sunderland, the City Hospitals NHS Trust has won its fourth Charter Mark despite staff shortages. Nurses from South Africa have been recruited to ease the problem. The day case unit now treats nearly two thirds of the hospitals' patients, enabling them to return home on the day of their operation.

The eye infirmary and the neurophysiology department, which provides a high-quality mobile service, have both been reaccredited.

The Sir Winston Churchill Comprehensive School in Woking, Surrey, with a student population of about 1,500, is seeking to re-establish the sixth form it lost in the Seventies. The Government's Schools Inspectorate puts it among the top 160 schools in Britain. Michael Staples, the school's pastoral manager, points to its "tracking system" which allows pupils' exam results to be fed into a computer before being used to assess whether they are doing well.

Holy Cross High School in Chorley, Lancashire, has introduced "Going for Gold" awards to stimulate achievement in lessons and in sport, and to boost attendance and extracurricular activities such as volunteer work for charities. Under the school's monitoring system, individual tutors are assigned to pupils experiencing difficulties.

Parklands Junior School, in Romford, Essex, has already been awarded Investors in People status. Gina Gardiner, the principal, sees a Charter Mark as a natural progression, attributing the school's success to its emphasis on high standards and on teamwork involving staff, pupils, parents and the community.

The Land Registry, which oversees 24 district offices from its headquarters in Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, holds the records of more than 16 million titles, most of which are now stored on computer. It has recently introduced a pilot scheme for a national land information service, and hopes to revolutionise homebuying by introducing computer conveyancing to cut out expensive searches. This is the third successive year in which the registry has been awarded a Charter Mark.

James Pearson, the deputy head of information, says reaching such heights gets harder all the time. "We must demonstrate consistently improving standards," he says. "It is not enough to stand still. One of the things that impressed the assessors was our independent complaints procedure.

"Although as a monopoly, which the public is forced to use, we are not subject to market forces, we are nonetheless very customer-orientated and are constantly developing and improving our services."

Since privatisation, most of the railway companies have been under fire almost as consistently as was their predecessor, British Rail. Happily, there are some exceptions.

Since 1994, Chiltern Railways has invested more than £30 million on its Clubman trains to provide faster, more comfortable journeys on a network once notorious for overcrowding and unreliability. It offers a 50 per cent refund to passengers delayed for more than 30 minutes. Assessors were also impressed by the friendliness and efficiency of staff, and by the quality and amount of information available in timetables and leaflets.

The Island Line Train Operating Company on the Isle of Wight is the smallest of the 25 franchised operators, responsible for just 8½ miles of track between Ryde and Shanklin. Its rolling stock is 60 years old and the 35 staff are responsible for track maintenance as well as running the trains (all but two of the stations are unmanned). Nonetheless, it carries 700,000 passengers a year, 60 per cent of them tourists. Remarkably, the company achieves 95 per cent punctuality. "A lot of good news goes unreported," says Alan Cracknell, the general manager. "We decided we had achieved enough to apply for an award."

In South Yorkshire, the Passenger Transport Executive has concentrated on replacing cold, bleak waiting rooms with integrated rail and bus interchanges.

The Rotherham Interchange — near the railway station in the town centre, opened in 1996 — provides a bus station, car park, information centre and a shopping area.

A similar interchange in Barnsley, opened in 1992, which incorporates the railway station, is to be expanded to encompass the adjacent bus station, formerly privately owned. A similar project is planned for Doncaster.

Perfect platform for trainspotters

The glory days of engineering and shipping inspire quality tourism, says John Young

Those whose interest in railways encompasses the historical rather than the day-to-day practicalities of getting around are likely to be familiar with the National Railway Museum in York.

The largest of its kind in the world, the collection includes 103 engines and 280 items of rolling stock, while the archives contain 1.4 million photographs, 230,000 engineering drawings, 15,000 books and 7,000 posters.

Graham Stratfold, the museum's head of public affairs, says that applying for the Charter Mark helped to unite and focus staff: "We know we exist in a competitive environment, and to keep our slot as one of the most visited attractions outside London — 430,000 last year — we have to go on meeting and exceeding our visitors' expectations."

What York is to trains, Portmouth is to ships — and to the Royal Navy in particular. Reductions in the size of the dockyard and falling employment in ancillary industries have forced the city fathers to look to tourism as an alternative source of revenue.

The council has set up three tourist information centres — overseen by the English and Southern Tourist Boards — which handled 370,000 inquiries last year, 15 per cent of them from abroad. All the permanent and most of the temporary staff speak at least one foreign language.

Birmingham's transformation from the grimy "workshop of the world" into a city with serious cultural ambitions is reflected in the fact that it has the largest local authority museums service in Britain.

At its heart is the Museum and Art Gallery, which houses the world's leading collection of Pre-Raphaelite art; it recently presented a successful Burne-Jones exhibition. The Birmingham city authority also runs the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, which reflects the early years of the century, and Aston Hall, one of the finest Jacobean houses in the country. The Charter Mark assessors were impressed by visitors' positive comments.

Belfast Zoological Gardens, established in 1934, have in recent years provided a haven for recreation and education in a city plagued for so long by violence and destruction. The zoo has won several prizes for animal husbandry and the design of its enclosure. Now it has added a Charter Mark award for its facilities, service and value for money.

In Torquay, the Riviera Centre has won two Charter Mark awards for its conference bureau and its sports and leisure department. Sarah James, of the conference bureau, says that bookings extend well into the next millennium with more and more national organisations and companies being sold on the delights of Torbay.

"We attach tremendous importance to detail to ensure we cover the simplest to the most difficult tasks," she says. "We offer not only a free venue-finding service, but also complete conference packaging."

Sports and leisure facilities include a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room and sauna, as well as a gym which is used by Torquay United Football Club members, and athletes who hope to qualify for the British skiing team for the next Winter Olympics.

While visits to museums or swimming pools are generally agreeable experiences, encounters with police or tax inspectors are something that most people prefer to avoid. But Inspector Reg Haslam, of Merseyside Police traffic department, insists that the work of his team goes well beyond "nicking" the errant driver who is caught speeding.

He points to the department's goal of reducing the number of traffic accidents which cost so much in public money and human suffering. Every accident is recorded on a computerised Ordnance Survey map along with details of what caused it. This enables the authorities to determine if and where further traffic restrictions are needed; in some cases this cuts casualties by half.

"Our investigations are carried out to the highest standards, comparable to those methods employed by the CID," Inspector Haslam says. "We have officers trained to provide care and support for bereaved relatives, and the letters of appreciation we get far outnumber the complaints."

The Inland Revenue's much publicised attempts to present a more humane face to the public have been rewarded by the granting of 11 new Charter Marks, bringing its total to 19.

The winning offices, mostly in the North of England and in Scotland, include Shipley in West Yorkshire, where more than 1,000 staff have been trained to use "plain English" and to provide a streamlined telephone answering service for customers, most of whom live more than 200 miles away. In Bootle, on Merseyside, tax workshops have been organised and customers are invited to visit the office.

The Inland Revenue's South Yorkshire region, with its headquarters in Sheffield, employs some 4,200 staff in 33 offices and carries out regular complaints surveys to determine the levels of customer satisfaction.

The Buckie tax office, on the remote Moray coast of north-east Scotland, which employs just 16 people, has organised an appointments system for its 6,400 customers. This helped it to earn its second Charter Mark award.

NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM

Living history: Platform 4 resident theatre group as Brunel and Stephenson at the National Railway Museum

Scheme wins Labour's approval

Edward Fennell on how Charter Mark's ethos of putting customers first fits the Government's strategy

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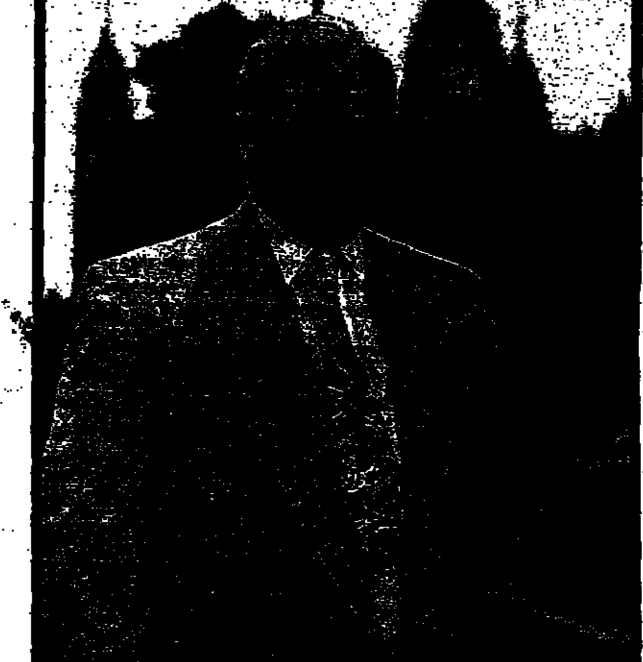


Peter Kilfoyle: ending turf wars between public servants

ONE of the biggest practical challenges facing this administration is how to deliver on its commitment to "joined-up Government". Behind the neat catchphrase is a complex exercise in re-engineering the way public services are planned and delivered by emphasising co-operation between departments — whether in Whitehall or the town hall.

But for bureaucrats to co-operate often goes against the grain of territorial protectiveness. So a set of tools is now being used to weld services together. Among them, Charter Mark has an important role to play.

Admittedly when Labour arrived in power it needed to be convinced that Charter Mark was a worthwhile undertaking. But an evaluation of the scheme produced some impressive results. Charter Mark organisations were shown to perform considerably better than the norm. Staff morale was higher. And feedback from the public showed that they were better consulted by Charter Mark organisations. As a result the Government decided not to scrap the award — but to expand it.

Yet if Charter Mark was to gain a new Labour character it had to support the "joined up" approach. Fortunately that is not difficult. Charter Mark is about putting the public, not the providers, at the centre of the service.

Getting rid of rivalries and abandoning turf wars between public servants is part of this process. As Peter Kilfoyle, Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of Public Service, puts it: "There have been substantial improvements in public service delivery by a number of government bodies — especially in the agencies. But these improvements are not always coherently connected. I want us to do much more to see the customer's point of view. Citizens dealing with life's events — marriage, retirement, long-term care, whatever — want a package of services tailored to their needs. They do not want to traipse round public sector agencies. We must make things easier for them through one-stop shops, tighter co-operation, collaborative electronic service provision, better signposting between services, or whatever suits best."

Reflecting this approach the new Charter Mark criteria for this year include the need to work with other providers. Charter Mark also complements naturally the new Best Value programme through its emphasis on consulting users and reviewing standards of performance. The forthcoming White Paper on modernising Government will emphasise Charter Mark's role in promoting this customer-focused approach. Mr Kilfoyle quotes, for example, the work of Hackney council, under the Better Government for Older People programme, in running a project for integrated services, and the Lewisham Benefits Agency prototype which provides central and local government benefits.

The emphasis within Charter Mark on partnership extends to the relationship with the public. Under the Conservatives the public were described as customers. Under Labour they have become users, with the implication that providers and users should collaborate closely to get the most out of the system.

As Mr Kilfoyle points out: "Charter Mark emphasises co-operation between service providers and users. This can be deepened in many ways. For example, Cherwell District Council Environmental Health Department's bus takes services to the people. Birmingham council now operates 43 one-stop shops. And the National Museums of Scotland has a junior board of 12 schoolchildren." All three organisations are 1998 Charter Mark winners.

But co-operation does not disguise the fact that Charter Mark does have a hard edge. Mr Kilfoyle says there must be greater exposure to the public. "Charter Mark winners must have customer service standards which are transparent and open. Performance against them must be assessed and subject to public scrutiny."

Perhaps the final link in the new framework of co-operation is between Charter Mark itself and the other quality awards. Mr Kilfoyle says: "Charter Mark is a tried and tested scheme. There is no doubt that it enhances public service delivery. Finally, let's not forget the workers. What is good for the users of services must also be good ultimately for those who deliver them. Charter Mark winners have high self-esteem."

NEWS

Straw in adoption call

■ Jack Straw was at the centre of a storm last night after saying that more teenage mothers should give up their babies for adoption. The Home Secretary blamed "well-meaning but misguided" social workers for over-estimating the ability of many young women to cope with the financial and emotional burdens of motherhood........Page 1

Meeting at the altar

■ It was billed as a "scientific experiment in love" and after an intimate ceremony attended only by close family, friends and a national television company, the guinea pigs in Britain's first "blind" wedding were declared man and wife. Carla Germaine, 23, a model, and Greg Cordell, 28, a sales manager, met for the first time and were married at 1pm yesterday after winning a radio competition........Page 1

Clinton chaos

Leading Republicans squashed a new attempt to complete President Clinton's trial this week, in a day of plots and accusations that left the impeachment process in chaos........Pages 1, 15

Kidnap case

A man accused of kidnapping and assaulting two schoolgirls said that he wished that he could turn back the clock........Page 1

Gay law plea

A Tory MP made a call for the reduction of the age of homosexual consent which he said was akin to ending slavery........Page 2

Extradition request

Yemen asked Britain to extradite the extremist Muslim cleric Sheikh Abu Hamza al Masri, whom it accuses of masterminding the kidnap of 16 Western tourists last month........Page 3

Race gang death

Michael Menson, the black musician who died after being found on fire in the street, was the victim of a racist gang linked to a series of such attacks........Page 5

'Mad cow' inquest

A single meal of beef may have been responsible for the death of the first known victim of the human brain disorder linked to "mad cow" disease, an inquest was told........Page 7

Road blocker

A lecturer who gave up home and career to be an anti-roads protester was blocking the last stage of a new bypass........Page 8

Spielberg triumph

Steven Spielberg paid tribute to D-Day veterans as *Saving Private Ryan* was voted best film at the Golden Globe awards Page 9

Houses of art

Two houses overflowing with paintings have been left by a reclusive artist of 90 who refused to sell his work........Page 11

Iraq accusation

Iraq accused American and British military aircraft of firing missiles into residential areas in the port of Basra........Page 12

King's heir

King Hussein of Jordan has ended days of speculation and confirmed by royal decree that his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, 36, is his heir in place of the King's 51-year-old brother, Prince Hassan, who had held the position of Crown Prince for 34 years........Page 13

Mercenary anger

As Sierra Leone's rebels continue to murder priests and missionaries and amputate the limbs of civilians, battle-hardened mercenaries are vowing their willingness to "do the job for nothing — just to finish the rebels"..Page 14

Immortality with the mystical 59

■ It was, in its way, like six sixes in an over to win a cricket match or breaking a world record to win a gold medal in the 1,500 metres in the Olympic Games. What David Duval, the American golfer, achieved was nothing less than a slice of sporting immortality. A score of 59 in golf is a mystical figure, a barrier that goes beyond the psychological........Page 1

David Hockney with his *A Closer Grand Canyon, 1998* announcing an exhibition at the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris yesterday

Driving move: Federal-Mogul made a £3.9 billion offer for Lucas-Varity, the car parts group, in a move to put pressure on the board to discuss a takeover........Page 27

Peace efforts: There were frantic peace efforts at the Mirror Group to try to avoid an outright confrontation within the board over the company's future........Page 27

NTL boost: The UK cable industry was given a significant boost when Microsoft, the US software giant, took a five per cent take in NTL for £300 million........Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index yesterday rose 19.70 points to 5880.9. The pound rose 0.33 cents to $1.6574 and 0.27p against the euro to 69.75p. The sterling index rose to 100.2 from 99.8........Page 30

Athletics: Mystery surrounds the identity of the British athlete at the centre of a doping scandal, despite the confirmation of a positive drug test........Page 52

Football: Stan Collymore intends to seek counselling to help him overcome "pressures and stress" after his absence from Aston Villa's fourth round FA Cup match against Fulham........Page 49

Tennis: Andre Agassi, the No 5 seed, was knocked out of the Australian Open by Vince Spadea, the world No 44........Page 47

Rowing: The Boat Race is to be sponsored for the next three years by Aberdeen Asset Management. They succeed the gin manufacturers Beefeater, who backed the race for 12 years........Page 49

Man of many parts: With no fewer than five films set for release this year, why is British actor Jeremy Northam taking on a London stage role? The answer is because he loves plays........Page 34

Classic round-up: The Corydon Singers celebrate Goethe and the LPO brings raw energy to Mahler, while a Manchester audience enjoys a Poulenc party........Page 34

Ladies in waiting: The French artist Ingres found his greatest inspiration in the society women he painted, as the National Gallery's new exhibition reveals........Page 35

Balls in the air: If you thought juggling was not an ideal medium for the portrayal of human tragedy, Lionel About and Vincent Bruel prove otherwise........Page 36

Hands-off: How psoriasis led a victim to develop a fear of shaking hands........Page 16

Stress-buster: Obsessive behaviour is often just a means of relieving stress........Page 16

Red for danger: In some people, nosebleeds are all too common. But they can be dangerous........Page 16

Thieving nation: Most of us will at some time end up stealing from our employers........Page 17

Crying game: A couple rang the changes to be town criers..Page 23

Uncordial relations: French lawyers are not happy about the tactics of English law firms........Page 41

People's judge: Brilliant, unpompous and a judicial activist, Lord Denning is Britain's most treasured law lord........Page 43

MBA: Which business school should you choose?

Quite fascinating, the argument being made by Senate Democrats: there is no chance of getting the two-thirds vote required to convict President Clinton, so the case should be dismissed
— *The Washington Times*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
Watching profits wash down the drain: whatever happened to the paperless office?

■ **HOMES**
Newstead Abbey, Lord Byron's ancestral home is saved from ruin

Preview: Then code-breakers who saved Britain in 1941: *Station X* (Channel 4, 9pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph discovers that rising damp can be risible........Pages 50, 51

Christians in peril

Asian Christians are under assault as they have not been in living memory, why they should be singled out........Page 19

Samaranch must go

Under Señor Samaranch, the Olympics have lost direction, vitality and now credibility. If the movement is to be saved, he should resign forthwith........Page 19

Young Einsteins

Great science is subversive, bold, and risky - the very qualities of youth. Too much of today's science is conservative and pedestrian, dominated by committees and rules........Page 19

LIBBY PURVES

Admiral Lord Lewin has died; and though he was pushing 80, and I had known him for barely five years, the sense of outraged loss will not fade........Page 18

SEAN O'CALLAGHAN

We have been, and are still being led to believe, that the IRA, UVF and UDA are observing ceasefires. This is palpable nonsense..Page 18

MICHAEL GOVE

The Lawrences deserve to see justice done. I believe, however, that the search for a scapegoat is not justice. And the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry has too much of the whiff of Salem........Page 18

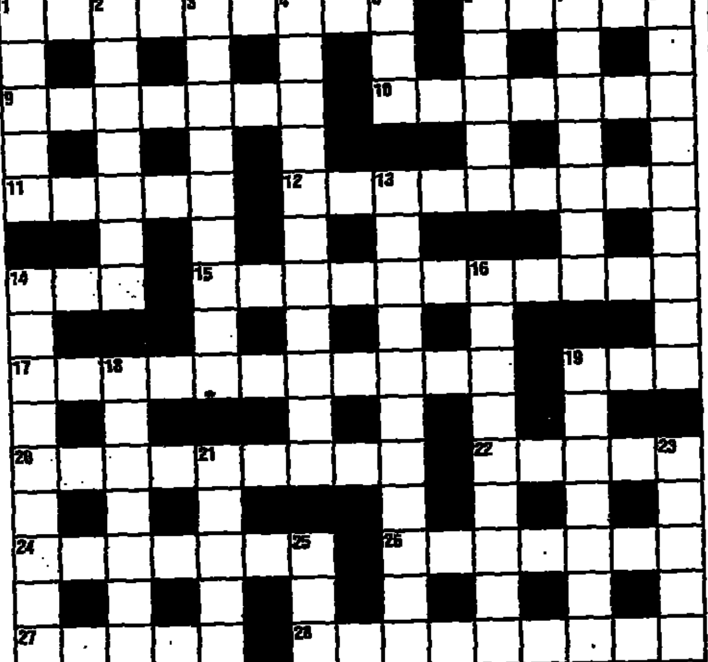
PETER RIDDELL

Businessmen have often struggled to make a mark at the very top but they have contributed at the medium level, as Lord Simon and Lord Sainsbury now are, by providing private sector insights........Page 11

Major-General Sir Charles Dunphie; Chairman of Vickers; **John Harrison,** prison governor; **Theo Mathew,** Royal herald........Page 21

Olympic ideal; Paul McCartney; Ulster violence; deafness; job centres; middle age........Page 19

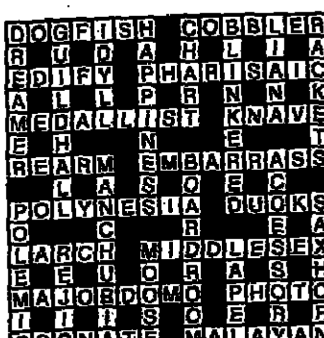
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,010



ACROSS
1 Excellent hand that'll please the players (4,5).
6 New drivers escorting female in uniform (5).
9 Elegant colour excellent for interior (7).
10 Be like Dad in the war and maintain secrecy (4,3).
11 Entrance with a stroke (5).
12 Complete satisfaction as drug is seized by order of Interpol (9).
14 Cobblers uneager to adapt, sticking to their lasts (3)
15 Coach with side introducing fellow – that's a problem for some players (5,6).
17 Decided locks may be changed thus (3,3,5).
19 Record broken by a bounder (3).
20 Agreement to study the line at last (9).
22 Uplift inspector's heart, adding pound to tax return (5).
24 The second period of metalwork (4,3).
26 Put back two sorts of material (7).
27 White bird with grey tail one found in field (5).
28 Assent to one operating an instrument (9).

DOWN
1 Service put up notice for electricians' unit (5).
2 Abandoned its reform as radical (7).
3 Henry annoys the cricket side and supporters (7-2).
4 Operating below strength? That's crafty (11).
5 Creature nobody would call a little dear? (3).
6 Subject in fiction, for example (5).
7 Improvising seductive activity (7).
8 Plastic and metal I provided in thin sheets (9).
13 Destroyed his report, in charge before records were kept (11).
14 Environmentally sound policy on travel without fuel (9).
16 After danger signal, sprinkle plant (3,6).
18 Metallic sheet can prove frustrating (7).
19 Bread which a patient has taken in (7).
21 Zero change in this organ (5).
23 Connection that is protected by metal (3-2).
25 Amount of land turned over this time (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,009



DOGFISH COBBLER
R U D A H L I A
EDIFY PHARISAIC
A L L P R N N K
MEDALLIST KNAVE
E H N E T
REARM EMBARRASS
L A S O E C
POLYNESIA DUCKS
O C R E A
LARCH MIDDLESEX
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COGNATE MALAYAN

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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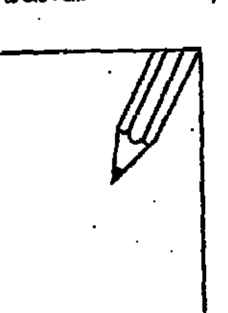
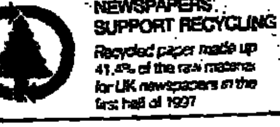
HOURS OF DARKNESS



Sun rises: 7.48 am | Sun sets: 4.38 pm
Moon sets: 2.15 am | Moon rises: 12.38 am

Full moon January 31

London 4.38 pm to 7.46 am
Bristol 4.49 pm to 7.56 am
Edinburgh 4.32 pm to 8.17 am
Manchester 4.39 pm to 8.03 am
Penzance 5.05 pm to 8.04 am



☐ **General:** east and southeast England will have early sun but rain in afternoon. Wales and western England will have showers then rain with snow possible over hills. Northern Ireland will be breezy with rain turning to sleet or snow showers later. Scotland will have wintry showers and sunny spells. Strong winds tonight in the south and west.

☐ **London, SE & E England, E Anglia:** bright start, clouding over, rain from mid-afternoon. Wind SW, fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central & NE England, Midlands, Channel Islands:** clouding over with rain from west. Wind SW, fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW & NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man:** overcast with heavy rain, which will turn to sleet or snow on the hills. Wind SW, strong. Max 9C (48F).

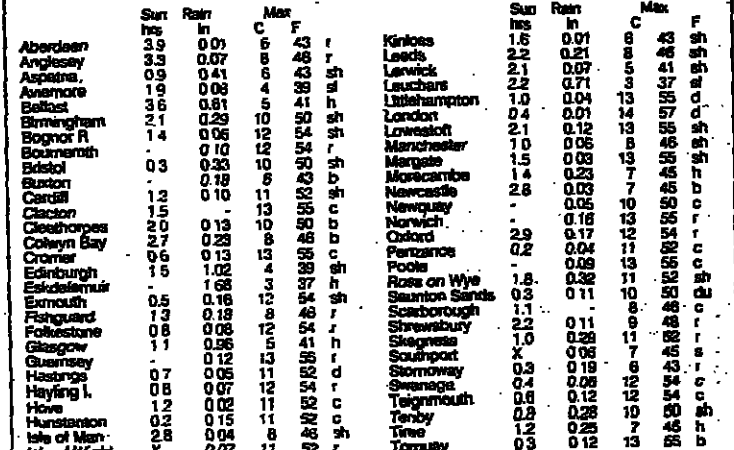
☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** rain and hill-snow spread east. Wind SW to NW, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunshine and showers, sleet or snow in the hills. Wind NW, moderate to fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **N Ireland:** heavy rain then brighter. Sleet or snow showers on hills. Wind SW to NW, fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** rain spreading east, brighter in afternoon. Wind SW, strong, to NW, decreasing. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain and sunny spells.

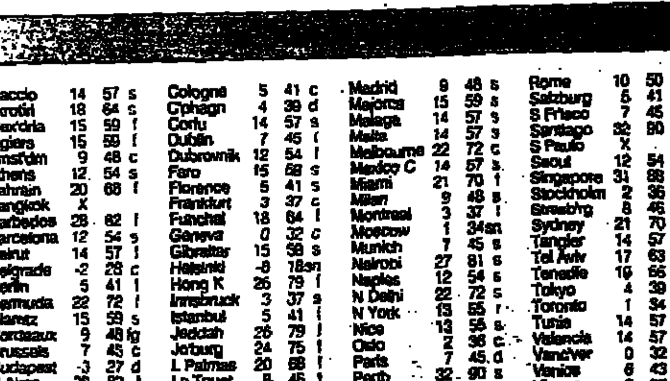


24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	3.9	0.01	6	43	r
Anglesey	3.3	0.07	8	46	r
Aspatria	0.9	0.41	6	43	sh
Aviemore	1.9	0.08	4	39	sl
Belfast	3.6	0.81	5	41	h
Birmingham	2.1	0.29	10	50	sh
Bognor R	1.4	0.06	12	54	sh
Bournemth	-	0.10	12	54	r
Bristol	0.3	0.33	10	50	sh
Buxton	-	0.18	6	43	b
Cardiff	1.2	0.10	11	52	sh
Clacton	1.5	-	13	55	c
Cleethorpes	2.0	0.13	10	50	b
Colwyn Bay	2.7	0.23	8	46	b
Cromer	0.6	0.13	13	55	c
Edinburgh	1.5	1.02	4	39	sh
Eskdalemuir	-	1.68	3	37	h
Exmouth	0.5	0.16	12	54	sh
Fishguard	1.3	0.18	8	46	r
Folkestone	0.8	0.08	12	54	r
Glasgow	1.1	0.96	5	41	h
Guernsey	-	0.12	13	55	r
Hastings	0.7	0.05	11	52	d
Hayling I.	0.8	0.07	12	54	r
Hove	1.2	0.02	11	52	c
Hunstanton	0.2	0.15	11	52	c
Isle of Man	2.8	0.04	8	46	sh
Isle of Wight	X	0.07	11	52	r
Jersey	-	0.20	11	52	r

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Kinloss	1.6	0.01	6	43	sh
Leeds	2.2	0.21	8	46	sh
Lerwick	2.1	0.07	5	41	sh
Leuchars	2.2	0.71	3	37	sl
Littlehampton	1.0	0.04	13	55	d
London	0.4	0.01	14	57	d
Lowestoft	2.1	0.12	13	55	sh
Manchester	1.0	0.06	8	46	sh
Margate	1.5	0.03	13	55	sh
Morecambe	1.4	0.23	7	45	h
Newcastle	2.8	0.03	7	45	b
Newquay	-	0.05	10	50	c
Norwich	-	0.16	13	55	r
Oxford	2.9	0.17	12	54	r
Penzance	0.2	0.04	11	52	c
Poole	-	0.09	13	55	c
Ross on Wye	1.8	0.32	11	52	sh
Saunton Sands	0.3	0.11	10	50	du
Scarborough	1.1	-	8	46	c
Shrewsbury	2.2	0.11	9	48	r
Skegness	1.0	0.28	11	52	r
Southport	X	0.06	7	45	s
Stornoway	0.3	0.19	6	43	r
Swanage	0.4	0.08	12	54	c
Teignmouth	0.6	0.12	12	54	c
Tenby	0.8	0.28	10	50	sh
Tiree	1.2	0.25	7	45	h
Torquay	0.3	0.12	13	55	b

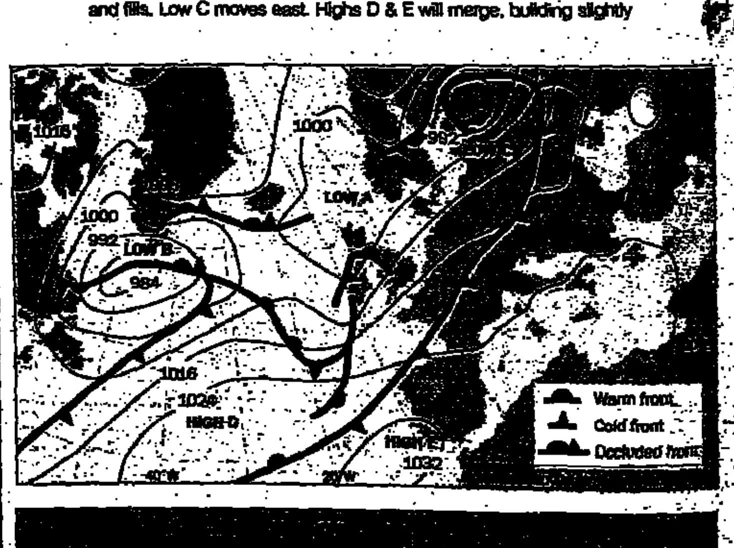
Highest day max: Gravesend 14C (57F). **Lowest day max:** Drumalbin, South Lanarks 3C (37F). **Wettest:** Eskdalemuir, Dumfries 1.68 in. **Sunniest:** Aberdeen 3.9 hours



	C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	15	59	f
Algiers	15	59	f
Amst'dm	9	48	c
Athens	12	54	s
Bahrain	20	68	f
Bangkok	X		
Barbados	28	82	f
Barcelona	12	54	s
Beirut	14	57	f
Belgrade	-2	28	c
Berlin	5	41	f
Bermuda	22	72	f
Biarritz	15	59	s
Bordeaux	9	48	fg
Brussels	7	45	c
Budapest	-3	27	d
B Aires	28	82	f
Beijing	1	34	c
Cairo	18	64	f
Cape Tn	25	77	s
Chicago	1	34	f
Ch'church	20	68	X
Cologne	5	41	c
C'phagn	4	39	d
Corfu	14	57	s
Dublin	7	45	f
Dubrovnik	12	54	f
Faro	15	59	s
Florence	5	41	s
Frankfurt	3	37	c
Funchal	18	64	f
Geneva	0	32	c
Gibraltar	15	59	s
Helsinki	-8	18	sn
Hong K	26	79	f
Innsbruck	3	37	s
Istanbul	5	41	f
Jeddah	26	79	f
Jo'burg	24	75	f
L Palmas	20	68	f
Le Touquet	8	46	f
Lisbon	11	52	s
Locarno	8	46	s
L Angeles	14	57	f
Luxembg	3	37	fg
Luxor	22	72	s
Madrid	9	48	s
Majorca	15	59	s
Malaga	14	57	s
Malta	14	57	s
Melbourne	22	72	c
Mexico C	14	57	s
Miami	21	70	f
Milan	9	48	s
Montreal	3	37	f
Moscow	1	34	sn
Munich	7	45	s
Nairobi	27	81	s
Naples	12	54	s
N Delhi	22	72	s
N York	13	55	r
Nice	13	55	s
Oslo	2	36	c
Paris	7	45	d
Perth	32	90	s
Prague	3	37	s
Reykjavik	1	34	s
Rhodes	15	59	s
Rio de J	27	81	f
Riyadh	26	79	s
Rome	10	50	s
Salzburg	5	41	s
S Frisco	7	45	s
Santiago	32	90	s
S Paulo	X		
Seoul	12	54	f
Singapore	31	88	f
Stockholm	2	36	r
Strasb'rg	8	46	f
Sydney	21	70	f
Tangier	14	57	s
Tel Aviv	17	63	f
Tenerife	19	66	f
Tokyo	4	39	r
Toronto	1	34	c
Tunis	14	57	f
Valencia	14	57	s
Vanc'ver	0	32	f
Venice	6	43	s
Vienna	-3	27	c
Warsaw	3	37	s
Wash'ton	13	55	s
W'lngton	17	63	X
Zurich	3	37	s

Temperatures at midday local time Sunday X = not available

Changes to the chart below from noon: Low A moves SE and deepens. Low B drifts NE and fills. Low C moves east. Highs D & E will merge, building slightly



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	8:13	3.7	20:33	3.8
Avonmouth	1:03	10.9	13:48	11.0
Belfast	5:36	3.1	18:03	3.2
Cardiff	0:49	10.2	13:34	10.2
Devonport	-	-	12:05	4.7
Dover	5:18	6.0	18:00	5.7
Dublin	6:31	3.6	18:53	3.8
Falmouth	11:36	4.5	-	-
Greenock	6:48	3.1	19:21	3.1
Harwich	5:54	3.6	18:42	3.5
Holyhead	4:56	4.7	17:25	4.9
Hull (Albert D)	0:08	7.9	13:03	7.5
Ilfracombe	0:01	7.6	12:42	7.7
King's Lynn	0:24	5.7	13:20	5.4
Leith	8:21	4.8	21:46	4.9

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Liverpool	5:37	7.9	18:11	[illegible]
London Bridge	7:57	6.3	20:54	[illegible]
Lowestoft	3:25	2.4	16:45	[illegible]
Margate	6:05	4.3	19:01	[illegible]
Milford Haven	0:24	5.7	13:01	[illegible]
Newquay	-	-	12:02	[illegible]
Oban	-	-	13:06	[illegible]
Penzance	11:20	4.7	-	[illegible]
Portland	0:48	1.6	13:11	[illegible]
Portsmouth	6:00	4.3	18:27	[illegible]
Shoreham	5:36	5.4	18:01	[illegible]
Southampton	5:27	4.1	18:01	[illegible]
Swansea	0:30	10.7	13:06	[illegible]
Tees	10:37	9.2	22:59	[illegible]
Walton-On-Naze	5:48	3.7	18:39	[illegible]

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

THE TIMES 2

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ECONOMICS
Anatole Kaletsky on Brazil and the wrong medicine

ARTS
See him here, see him there: actor Jeremy Northam

LAW
Why is the OFT tackling football's Premier League?

TELEVISION AND RADIO

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JANUARY 26 1999

Mirror directors face showdown today

Montgomery: determined not to resign

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

LAST-MINUTE efforts were being made last night to avoid a damaging confrontion at today's board meeting of Mirror Group between Sir Victor Blank, its chairman, and David Montgomery, the chief executive.

Sir Victor had been expected to put a motion before the board seeking the removal of Mr Montgomery, who has run the newspaper group since the death of Robert Maxwell. Mr Montgomery is determined not to resign and will oppose any attempt to unseat him. Sir Victor believes that he has the support of most, if not all, of the comopany's non-executive directors, while Mr Montgomery believes that he can rely on the votes of the executive directors.

The dispute comes in the midst of potential takeover bids for the group, which publishes *The Mirror*, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*. It also owns Midland Independent Newspapers, the regional publisher.

Regional Independent Media, publisher of the *Yorkshire Post*, is awaiting more information in the hope of making a formal bid, possibly in excess of its offer of £913 million, or 200p a share, already on the table.

The situation is being closely watched by Trinity, the largest UK regional newspaper group, which withdrew from talks on an all-share deal at about 160p.

The move against Mr Montgomery is being fuelled by the fact that he is seen as a barrier to a deal with Trinity, something that appeals to Phillips & Drew, the largest Mirror shareholder, with a 22 per cent stake.

It is believed that Sir Victor and other Mirror directors were being advised last night that a formal vote that would split the board would not be in the interests of the company or its shareholders.

A Mirror takeover by RIM or Trinity would lead to an automatic reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A full inquiry could take up to the six months.

It was unclear last night whether Sir Victor, who became chairman of Mirror Group six months ago, will seek a confrontation at today's meeting. If he does, one tactic for Mr Montgomery would be to seek a postponement with the backing of executive directors.

Legal and General, a 4.4 per cent Mirror shareholder, yesterday asked to meet Sir Victor. The insurance company feels that Phillips & Drew seems to be driving the agenda.

Mirror shares rose 9p to 207p yesterday.

Commentary, page 29

Banks express surprise at terms of review

By Richard Miles
Banking Correspondent

BANKS gave a cautious welcome yesterday to the terms of the Government's review of banking services, but expressed surprise that Donald Cruickshank, the review's head, had sought to include cross-selling in his investigation.

Mr Cruickshank, a former telecommunications regulator and chairman of the Action 2000 millennium bug campaign, also quashed rumours that the Treasury was considering the imposition of a windfall tax on bank profits

While Mr Cruickshank emphasised that his inquiry would focus on competition issues, he said there were already grounds for investigating four distinct areas: lending to small businesses, money transmission, credit cards and joint supply, which includes cross-selling.

"It may not appear as a rallying cry to address the things consumers have said they are concerned about: overcharging, poor service and the failure to understand needs of small businesses. But alleged failings like these can only be addressed by first understanding the competitive structure of the industry," he said.

Mr Cruickshank will make international comparisions on innovation, competition and efficiency in the UK banking sector. He will also look at whether the Government should consider intervening in the industry.

Bankers said they were surprised at the inclusion within the review of joint supply — the common practice of bundling different products together such as buildings insurance with a mortgage, or a personal loan with a current account.

Control of the credit card network among merchandisers will also come under Mr Cruickshank's scrutiny. In the US, the Department of Justice has argued that Visa and MasterCard's domination of the credit card network has been anti-competitive.

Social exclusion and consumer redress, however, fall outside the scope of his remit. The deadline for submissions to the review is February 26. He expects to make his final report by the end of the year.

Commentary, page 29

Pressure put on Lucas to discuss £4bn bid

By Paul Durman

FEDERAL-MOGUL, the fast-growing American car parts group, is trying to force LucasVarity into takeover talks by setting out terms of a conditional offer worth £3.9 billion.

LucasVarity, which makes braking and electronic systems, has rejected an offer of cash and Federal-Mogul stock worth 280p a share. This is 36p more than LucasVarity's closing price yesterday of 244p — up 29½p.

Federal-Mogul said it was told in writing yesterday that LucasVarity was "not willing to enter into discussions". The US group hopes that Schroders and other leading UK investors will put pressure on Victor Rice, LucasVarity's chief executive, to hold talks.

Dick Snell, chairman and chief executive of Federal-Mogul, said: "Having been rebuffed, we are making this announcement to allow shareholders to know about it and to do with it what they think best." Federal-Mogul's offer is conditional on it being given an opportunity to conduct due diligence checks and the recommendation of the LucasVarity board.

In a letter to Mr Rice and Ed Wallis, LucasVarity's chairman, Mr Snell said the 280p a share offer was a 40 per cent premium to the market price before recent takeover speculation. "This is a full price which would offer compelling value to your shareholders and in our judgment is worthy of their consideration," he wrote.

"We are dismayed at your refusal to grant us confirmatory due diligence, particularly since . . . our principal concern in any such investigation would be to test the reasonableness of the assumptions underlying items such as the pension fund surplus, rather than any detailed assessment of commercially sensitive areas within your company."

LucasVarity's treatment of its pension fund has often been of concern to its pensioners and employees.

Taking over the larger LucasVarity would enable Mr Snell to achieve the "big hairy audacious goal" he has set for Federal-Mogul of becoming a $10 billion company by 2002. He said a deal would create a $13 billion industry leader.

Federal—Mogul, with interests that embrace connecting rods, engine bearings, pistons, camshafts and chassis components, has grown rapidly through a series of acquisitions, including the £1.5 billion takeover of T&N two years ago.

LucasVarity's formal response was limited to a reiteration of its statement earlier this month that it was in "preliminary discussions . . . with a number of companies in connection with a wide range of strategic alternatives, including joint ventures, acquisitions, dispositions, alliances and mergers or other combinations".

The company and its financial advisers, Lazard Brothers and Morgan Stanley, did not respond to calls for comment. Federal-Mogul is being advised by Merrill Lynch, the investment bank that gave LucasVarity a third opinion when it sought to convert itself into a US company last autumn.

Tempus, page 30

Brian Larcombe, chief executive of 3i, wants to obtain Electra at a significant discount

3i overtures lift Electra

By Richard Miles

SHARES in Electra Investment Trust yesterday soared 119p to 682½p on confirmation that it has had "an unsolicited approach" from 3i, its main rival in the venture capital field.

3i opened talks with Electra on a possible £1 billion-plus takeover a fortnight ago, but the two have reached deadlock on price and the value of unquoted investments in Electra's portfolio.

Brian Larcombe, 3i's chief executive, is seeking to buy Electra at a significant discount to its net asset value (NAV). Before yesterday's gains, Electra was trading at a wide discount, estimated at 17 per cent.

Michael Stoddart, Electra's chairman, who earned more than £1 million last year including performance bonus, is arguing for a premium to NAV. The trust's manager, Electra Fleming — a 50/50 joint venture with Robert Fleming, the investment bank — could also be an obstacle.

Investment analysts said a merger to form a venture capitalist with assets of nearly £5 billion would enhance value for both sets of shareholders. On one estimate, 3i investors would gain about 50p a share.

Rolly Crawford, of ABN Amro, said the extra £1 billion of assets would also secure 3i's place in the FTSE 100 index.

Feeling the pinch, page 28
Commentary, page 29
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Microsoft acquires stake in NTL for £300m

By Chris Ayres

THE UK cable industry was given a significant boost yesterday when Microsoft, the US software giant, acquired a 5 per cent stake in NTL for $500 million (£300 million).

The deal will help to improve the image of the UK cable industry, which is finally beginning to show signs of life after years of turmoil and slow growth. As part of the deal, Microsoft and NTL will form a "technology group" that will look at ways of developing ultra-fast Internet services and interactive television.

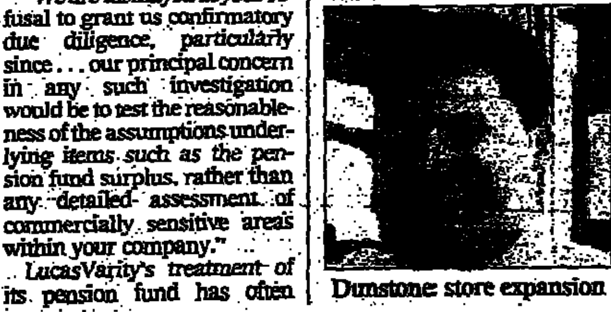
Shares in NTL, which is quoted on the Nasdaq stock market despite operating almost exclusively in the UK, rose nearly 25 per cent in early trading to a high of $84⅞. The company plans to float in London later this year. Shares in Britain's other two big cable companies — Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest — also made significant gains, rising 4 and 10 per cent respectively.

Barclay Knapp, president of NTL, said: "Microsoft believes in our vision of bringing advanced digital Internet, telephone and television services to consumers and businesses throughout the UK."

Under the terms of the deal, Microsoft will buy convertible preferred stock in NTL, which is redeemable in cash or common stock ten years after its issue date. Microsoft will also receive 1.2 million five-year warrants to purchase NTL shares at $84 per share, potentially taking the software giant's stake in the cable company up to 6.3 per cent. NTL said the software company's anti-trust battle with the US Government would not affect the deal.

Late last year, NTL said it was prepared to offer £160 million to buy Newcastle United Football Club.

Carphone Warehouse expects float



Dunstone: store expansion

By Chris Ayres

CHARLES DUNSTONE, the 34-year-old founder and managing director of The Carphone Warehouse, yesterday said a flotation of the mobile phone chain was "inevitable" as he announced the purchase of 270 Tandy electrical stores from InterTAN, the US company.

The deal, thought to be worth no more than £10 million, will allow The Carphone Warehouse to cope with the enormous demand for pre-pay mobile phones, which has resulted in some of the company's customers waiting one and a half hours to be served.

"It got to the point in December when we could not have physically dealt with more sales," said Mr Dunstone, whose personal fortune is estimated at £25 million. "We were putting up with it, but it was far from what we wanted as a purchasing experience. This deal will ease the pressure a little bit."

Mr Dunstone said he was aware he could realise a significant amount of money by floating The Carphone Warehouse during the current craze for mobile phones. However, he said that no City advisers had yet been appointed and that a flotation was unlikely this year.

Mr Dunstone said Tandy's management and brand would stay, but the stores would undergo a £20 million facelift. He said Tandy could eventually see mobile phones take up to 50 per cent of sales, and would widen its product range to sell phones from all networks.

The combined group will have 450 stores across the UK and 139 on the Continent. The acquisition of Tandy will boost The Carphone Warehouse's estimated sales for the year to March 1999 from £250 million to more than £350 million.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5880.9	(+19.7)
Yield	2.78%	
FTSE All Share	2672.99	(+7.63)
Nikkei	14208.81	(+54.41)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9087.20	(-33.47)*
S&P Composite	1222.78	(-2.41)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4[illegible]%*	(4[illegible]%)
Long bond	102[illegible]*	(102[illegible])
Yield	5.11%*	(5.09%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	120.04	(120.56)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6563*	(1.6565)
London:		
$	1.6574	(1.6542)
€	1.4334	(1.4282)
SFr	2.2913	(2.2858)
Yen	188.83	(188.73)
£ Index	100.2	(99.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1568*	(1.1590)
SFr	1.3824*	(1.3813)
Yen	113.81*	(114.45)
$ Index	104.3	(104.4)

Tokyo close Yen 114.30

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$10.95	($11.20)

GOLD

London close	$288.15	($287.45)

Exchange rates .... Page 28

* denotes midday trading prices

Bankers Trust pays $1.1bn in bonuses

From Oliver August
in New York

BANKERS TRUST paid out $1.1 billion (£667 million) in bonuses excluding salaries last year, according to documents filed with the US Federal Reserve.

The payouts amount to more than 10 per cent of the $10.1 billion market value of the bank and exceed Bankers Trust's 1998 profits of $960 million.

The bank previously said its total compensation bill for last year amounted to $1.5 billion. Bankers Trust employs 2,400 in Britain, 1,000 of whom are in Edinburgh. The total workforce is 20,000.

The bonus bonanza has come to light in conjunction with the takeover by Deutsche Bank announced last year. Deutsche has traditionally operated a more austere pay regime than its Wall Street rivals.

At the time of the takeover there was speculation that Deutsche Bank would attempt to push Bankers Trust bonuses down to cut costs.

Frank Newman, the executive chairman who will join Deutsche's board, was forced to send out a memo saying: "Until the merger closes, Bankers Trust will continue to operate independently and bonuses and promotions for 1998 will be approved in our normal process."

Mr Newman pledged to set aside $400 million in "retention money" to keep key employees. Nevertheless, up to 5,500 jobs could be cut in an attempt to save $1 billion per year after combining operations of the two banks in London and New York.

Venture capitalists start to feel the pinch

3i's offer for Electra is timely, says Richard Miles

3I'S proposed £1 billion-plus takeover of Electra Investment Trust, its main rival in the UK's £40 billion venture capital market, comes as the demand for private equity shows the first signs of deterioration.

Although the British Venture Capital Association, the main industry body, will not publish 1998 figures until April, the consensus among market analysts is that the volume of larger deals has declined in the past six months.

Mike Wright, of the Centre for Management Buy-Out Research at the University of Nottingham, said last summer's crisis of confidence in world markets, coupled with the continued financial unrest in Latin America, has blunted investors' appetite for risk. Moreover, the huge weight of money in the market has pushed up the price of entry and inevitably led to a reduction in returns. So poor are the prospects say some analysts, that many institutions have indicated that they would like to withdraw from the market.

"There are a lot of funds in the market and few good, big deals. The second half of the year was bad for the mega-deals, say £100 million or above. But for the smaller deals, it's not too bad," Mr Wright said. If his analysis is correct, then the market circumstances lend weight to 3i's talks with Electra. 3i thrives on smaller private equity deals: its £2 billion plus portfolio consists of 3,200 distinct investments.

Electra, by comparison, says it has just 80 significant investments in unquoted companies. Electra Fleming — the 50:50 joint venture with Robert Fleming, the investment bank, that manages Electra — prefers to target larger deals. For example, it supported the Tote in its unsuccessful £375 million bid for Coral, the bookmaker.

3i's main strength, however, is that its shares trade at a substantial premium to net asset value — estimated at 17 per cent by some experts — while Electra traded at a similarly wide discount, at least before yesterday's remarkable share gains after confirming 3i's "unsolicited" approach.

Rolly Crawford, ABN Amro's head of investment trusts, said 3i's significant premium would make a deal asset-enhancing for both sets of shareholders. He estimates that 3i shareholders would benefit by about 50p a share, while Electra investors would gain from the elimination of the discount.

Much has been made of how the proposed takeover would strengthen 3i's international operations — Electra has reinforced its continental network over the past few years — but in Mr Crawford's view, that is no more than a minor consideration in the thinking of Brian Larcombe, chief executive.

Far more important is 3i's determination to remain in the FTSE 100 index and the benefits that such a position brings. A further £1 billion of assets would make the company safe from newcomers, and so help to preserve the premium on which it trades.

Of course, the deal may never get off the ground. Besides arguing about Electra's net asset value of Electra, Michael Stoddart, its chairman, is believed to be holding out for a premium on its underlying investments — even though it trades at such a wide discount.

Tempus, page 30

Chinese devaluation hint hits markets

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

SHARES in Hong Kong and China suffered big losses yesterday after the Chinese Government hinted that it may be the next major emerging economy to devalue its currency.

With Brazilian markets shut for a holiday, a fresh bout of market nerves was prompted by an article in the Chinese press arguing that devaluation may not prove too damaging for Asian economies. The article in the influential Chinese *Business Weekly* argued that the experience of Brazil suggested that "devaluation or floating of the yuan would not definitely be a bad thing".

All Chinese newspapers are strictly controlled by the Government, and analysts said that publication of the piece suggested that a devaluation debate has begun within the Government.

However, suggestions that China is on the point of devaluation brought an immediate denial from the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, which said that the article merely reflected a "private opinion" and that there had been no change in the Government's protective stance.

The report, however, took its toll on local markets, with analysts fearful that a devaluation would also force the Hong Kong dollar to abandon its US dollar peg and prompt another round of damaging competitive devaluations across Asia.

The Hang Seng index in Hong Kong fell 239.02, or 2.5 per cent, to close at 9,499.50. Sentiment was also harmed by figures that showed November retail sales in the special administrative region falling 20 per cent from a year earlier.

In Shanghai, the "B" share index, which is open to foreign investors, slipped 3.1 per cent to end at a record low. The Chinese market has also been under pressure since the collapse of Guandong International Trust and Investment Corporation earlier this month.

Most analysts, however, said that China is under no immediate pressure to follow Brazil's example. Although export growth is faltering, China still runs a healthy trade surplus and has massive foreign reserves to protect its only partially convertible currency.

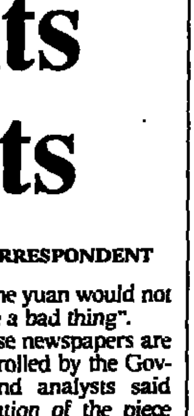
Growth figures cut back

FALLING interest rates, lower returns from shares and rising life expectancy have forced the investment industry to scale down its projections for growth (writes Marianne Curphey).

The PIA said the changes would affect the projections that salesmen use when selling life and pensions policies, and unit and investment trust savings schemes.

The PIA said that the rates will apply for new products from April 6 and for all business by June 30.

Projection rates were last changed in November 1993 and their use in the sales process is strictly regulated.



Marjorie Scardino, with Madame Tussaud's waxwork of Shakespeare, is selling businesses

Pearson's unwanted American activities put under hammer

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

PEARSON, the media and information group, yesterday put up for sale a collection of American information businesses it does not want which have annual revenues of about $250 million (£150 million).

The businesses, which include Jossey-Bass, specialists in management publishing, Appleton & Lange, which publishes medical texts and The Bureau of Business Practice, were all part of Pearson's $4.6 billion acquisition last November of the Simon & Schuster education, reference and business and professional operations.

The seven businesses now being sold were to have formed part of a proposed sale of some of the Simon & Schuster activities to Hicks, Muse Tate & Furst, the US private equity firm, for $860 million. Hicks, Muse decided against going ahead with the purchase and Pearson bought the whole lot.

The UK company, whose chief executive is Marjorie Scardino, has decided to keep a couple of the businesses that were to have formed part of the Hicks, Muse purchase — in particular Macmillan Computer Publishing which will now form part of Pearson Education.

Pearson is also keeping the New York Institute of Finance which will become part of Pearson's newly created Management Education business.

The seven businesses, which are being sold piecemeal and could fetch between $300 million and $350 million, include Macmillian General Reference, which publishes a full range of reference titles, and Macmillan Library Reference, which sells premium-priced quality reference materials to libraries and higher education institutions.

Pep sales stay strong

By Susan Emmett

PRIVATE investors shrugged off market turmoil and continued to plough their cash into unit trusts and personal equity plans in 1998, according to a survey published yesterday.

Figures from the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) showed that the amount of money invested in Peps and unit trusts rose by 16 per cent to £183 billion by the end of last year. Nearly two million private investors saved £1.6 billion in 1998.

Peps, which will be replaced by individual savings accounts in April, accounted for more than 25 per cent of funds under management. Total Pep sales in 1998 reached a record £11 billion, up 18 per cent on the previous year.

Net retail sales of unit trusts in December were up 35 per cent on the previous year to £596 million. Net retail Pep sales reached £368 million, a 30 per cent increase on 1997.

However, Philip Warland, director-general of Autif, questioned whether Isas would have the same appeal. Mr Warland said: "Isas will be more complicated and people will have to be persuaded that they are like Peps. But I will be disappointed if the gross level of sales are not similar to this year."

Ford extends four-day week

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

FORD will today deliver a fresh blow to workers at its Dagenham plant, with a lengthy extension of its short-time working and a three-week closure over Easter.

Ford's Dagenham plant, which employs 4,400, has already completed the longest period of short-time working in recent industrial history. It has been working a four-day week since October. It will now continue until the end of March, a period that will then run into complete closure over Easter.

Ford will blame poor exports for the short-time working. Dagenham is its biggest UK factory, producing the Fiesta and relying heavily on the export market. Workers will be given either training or other duties during the short-time periods and will not suffer pay cuts.

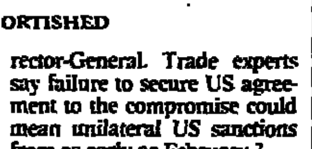
But unions are concerned about continued uncertainty at the plant. Doug Collins, national officer at the AEEU, said: "We need a long-term solution to this problem, not the piecemeal approach we have had up until now. Further short-time working will only increase insecurity and concern among the workforce. Four thousand and four hundred jobs depend on a decision to meet the problems in the long term."

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the T&G, said: There is very intense competition in the marketplace, especially for cars such as the Fiesta. However, while our members may be prepared to live with these cutbacks in the short term, we have to look to the long term."

Ford declined to comment.

Today unions will press Rover not to close its only automotive components factory in South Wales. Rover said last week that the future of the Bargoed plant was uncertain. Forty-five jobs could go — nearly half of which are filled by disabled workers.

Banana row threat to jobs



By Carl Mortished

THOUSANDS of jobs in Scottish Borders woollen mills were hanging in the balance last night as diplomats wrangled in Geneva over the agenda at a World Trade Organisation meeting on the long-running banana dispute.

In a surprise move St Lucia, the Dominican Republic and Cote d'Ivoire blocked the US request for $520 million (£315 million) of punitive tariffs against European exports. The US is claiming damages over the EU banana regime, which it claims applies illegal quotas in favour of Caribbean and African bananas. The three states to block the US request are members of the African Caribbean Pacific group of states favoured by the EU banana regime.

Failure to agree an agenda means that the meeting will reconvene this morning. But the US was last night still opposing a compromise put forward by Renato Ruggiero, the WTO Director-General. Trade experts say failure to secure US agreement to the compromise could mean unilateral US sanctions from as early as February 3.

The sanctions requested by the US will hit an indiscriminate range of exports including Scottish cashmere knitwear, pecorino cheese, chandeliers and electric kettles.

Banana growers blocked US

Ericsson cuts 11% of staff

By Carl Mortished, international business editor

ERICSSON is cutting its workforce by 11 per cent worldwide in a bid to increase efficiency and restore its flagging profitability.

The Swedish telecoms manufacturer is cutting its 104,000 strong workforce by 11,000 and hopes to save SKr3 billion per year after completion of the two-year redundancy programme. The company refused to say how many of its 3,500 workers in the UK were threatened by redundancy. Ericsson has a headquarters in Burgess Hill, West Sussex, and owns a manufacturing facility in Lincolnshire.

A profits warning in December highlighted the company's problem, both in public networks where it suffers from reduced demand for fixed telephony products and increased competition for business from state utilities. Furthermore, Ericsson's mobile phone business has suffered from the surge in demand for cheap, pre-paid models.

A spokesman admitted yesterday that the jobs toll could get larger as Ericsson switched to buying in standardised equipment and technology. "There will certainly be further outsourcing." Ericsson said the job losses related to technological change, requiring the company to switch to less labour-intensive production methods and a smaller workforce. "Ericsson is facing a comprehensive technological shift. For example, all of Europe's large telecom networks are digitised today, and the next wave of investments will focus on Internet-based network structures."

The company said that 3,300 jobs would be lost in Sweden with the closure of production at a plant in Norrkoping. The bulk of the 11,000 jobs to go worldwide will be in the network operators business, the core business serving large utilities.

UK facility to help Indonesian firms

A BRITISH rescue measure that is aimed at helping Indonesian businesses to survive the regional economic turmoil has finally been announced — months after other countries stepped in to provide assistance. The UK Government said yesterday that it will provide a multimillion-pound facility to encourage sales to Indonesian companies, overcoming the fear that the Indonesians may not be able to pay their bills.

Through its Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD), the Government will provide reinsurance that will allow private-sector credit insurers to resume the financing of British exports to Indonesia. The private sector had effectively placed the country on a short-term credit blacklist. Brian Wilson, Minister for Trade, said: "Indonesia has traditionally been one of Britain's major trading partners. Although the country is experiencing some serious economic difficulties at present, we remain hopeful that it will pull through before too long."

However, the United States, Australia and Japan put similar safeguards in place months ago, the ECGD spokesman admitted. The ECGD said that the UK deal had been held up partly by the Indonesian Government's reluctance to act as a guarantor for its firms. Short-term credit insurance used to be managed by the UK Government itself before a privatisation in 1991. The World Bank gave warning yesterday that political unrest in Indonesia was slowing down the pace of vital financial and corporate reform.

Freeserve restructure

DIXONS, the electricals retail group, is setting up a subsidiary company to manage Freeserve, its fast-growing Internet access business. John Clare, chief executive of Dixons, will chair Freeserve Ltd, of which Mark Danby will be chief executive. Dixons' announcement earlier this month that it had attracted 900,000 users since its launch in September has led to a sharp rise in its share price. Another separate company, Dixons Group Retail Property Ltd, is being set up to manage the property portfolio, while the retail part of the group is to be divided into three divisions.

Hill Hire seeks £1.8m

HILL HIRE, the truck and trailer rental firm based in Bradford, yesterday announced the placing of almost 1.5 million new shares to raise approximately £1.8 million. These proceeds will be used to reduce the group's gearing, which stood at 180 per cent at the end of last year. After the placing, it will be reduced to approximately 160 per cent, which the company said was "a level which is within industry norms and which provides scope for future development". The company also said it expects to declare a final dividend of 3.2p per share in May.

P&O orders ferries

P&O, the transport group, has ordered the world's two largest and fastest cruise ferries from Fincantieri, the Italian yard, at a cost of £180 million. The cruise ferries, which will operate on the route between Rotterdam and Hull, will have a maximum speed of 22 knots, reducing the journey time by two-and-a-half hours. They will replace four vessels now operating that route, which will be deployed elsewhere. The ferries will be able to carry 1,360 passengers, have room for 250 cars and house a cinema and business centre.

Thomson buys chain

THOMSON TRAVEL GROUP has increased its high-street presence by buying the Callers-Pegasus retail chain for £17 million. The deal, to be earnings enhancing this year, brings TTG a business with 34 travel shops in northeast England, a flight centre in Newcastle and a small tour operator, Focus Holidays. In the year to October 31, it sold almost 200,000 air-inclusive tours, reporting profits before tax and exceptionals of £1.1 million. TTG said its aquisition is to be run on a standalone basis alongside its 800-strong Lunn Poly chain.

Trafficmaster link

TRAFFICMASTER, the traffic information supplier, has formed a £1 million joint venture with the Royal Automobile Club to develop a range of network services for motorists, including navigation assistance, public transport details and access to breakdown services. Trafficmaster and the RAC will inject £500,000 each into the venture, called RAC Trafficmaster Telematics. Bill McIntosh, finance director of Trafficmaster, said the deal was expected to be earnings neutral for his company this year.

Wintrust earnings rise

WINTRUST, the merchant banking group, has reported a 10.5 per cent rise in net earnings to £1.47 million for the six months to September 30. Richard Szpiro, chairman, said yesterday that Wintrust had benefited from the bigger institutions' waning interest in debt packages of less than £10 million, opening the door to smaller lenders. He said this had been crucial in insulating Wintrust against the downturn in many sectors. Earnings per share rose to 14.59p (13.28p). There is an interim dividend of 5.35p (4.94p).

HR Owen's £2m buy

HR OWEN, the car dealer, has bought Bradshaw Webb, a Mercedes-Benz dealership, for £2.2 million in shares and cash. Bradshaw Webb, a franchised dealership based in Chelsea and Wandsworth, will add to Owen's three Mercedes-Benz businesses, which trade as Malaya. In 1997, Bradshaw Webb had consolidated losses of £105,966, and net assets of £122,781. It is 75 per cent owned by Colin Giltrap, Owen's non-executive deputy chairman, who receives £1.1 million of new shares, lifting his Owen stake from 4.2 per cent to 8.5 per cent.

Glenmorangie deal

GLENMORANGIE, the Scotch whisky producer, has joined forces with LVMH, the French luxury goods and drinks group, to develop its business in China. LVMH has paid $1.2 million (£725,000) in return for a 39 per cent stake in Glenmorangie's existing joint venture, set up in 1992 to distribute its Glemorangie and Highland Queen brands as well Jin Man Ying, a locally produced white spirit. As a result, the Scottish group's stake is reduced from 60 per cent to 39 per cent and its Chinese partner emerges with 22 per cent.

Gremlin in takeover talks

TAKEOVER fever gripped the British computer games sector yesterday as Gremlin, producer of titles such as *Men in Black*, revealed that it was in bid talks with "a number of interested parties", thought to include Electronic Arts of the US (Chris Ayres writes).

Shares of Gremlin, which recently disappointed the market with a profits warning, rose 26p to 100p, leaving the company valued at £19 million.

Industry sources said other potential bidders for Gremlin could include Havas, the media arm of Vivendi, the French conglomerate.

Sears

The article on the takeover of Sears by JIL (*Business News, January 22*) did not take proper account of a 10 for 1 share consolidation and, as a result, gave incorrect valuations for outstanding share options. Sears has asked us to point out the options will not generate any profits.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.72	2.54	Japan Yen	204.10	186.57
Austria Sch	20.76	19.10	Malta	0.664	0.605
Belgium Fr	61.11	56.15	Netherlds Gld	3.355	3.060
Canada $	2.633	2.445	New Zealand $	3.24	3.00
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8777	0.8062	Norway Kr	12.95	12.01
Denmark Kr	11.26	10.37	Portugal Esc	300.38	278.35
Egypt	5.85	5.24	S Africa Rd	10.66	9.70
Finland Mkk	9.09	8.34	Spain Pta	250.37	231.58
France Fr	9.89	9.11	Sweden Kr	13.62	12.52
Germany Dm	2.971	2.729	Switzerland Fr	2.449	2.231
Greece Dr	488	449	Turkey Lira	559853	522841
Hong Kong $	13.68	12.48	USA $	1.765	1.622
Iceland	127	107			
Indonesia	18952	13952			
Ireland Pt	1.1851	1.0961			
Israel Shk	7.12	6.46			
Italy Lira	2954	2717			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Monty can do without a Blank check

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The shenanigans at Mirror Group would make the most hardened of tabloid journalists squirm. The chairman and chief executive of a public company have been slugging it out through the columns of the press in a manner generally only employed by Government ministers and their anonymous spokesmen.

Surely the time has come for the soothing voice of a spin doctor to persuade both parties that this undignified behaviour is doing nothing for the image of either of them. While there may be some supporters of each who are enjoying the spectacle, and even encouraging it, the majority of the electorate, in this case the shareholders, must be concerned about the implications for the country, or at least, their company and their investment in it.

Sir Victor Blank strode into Mirror Group last year and was, apparently, far from impressed by what he found as he turned the pages. He rightly stamped his foot on plans for an expensive launch of *Sporting Life* which was to have proceeded without adequate research into the marketplace. Relations with his chief executive have, perhaps not surprisingly, failed to prosper ever since.

David Montgomery may not be the ideal chief executive to take Mirror forward but, to outside spectators, now may not be the ideal moment to dispense with his services. Whether Mirror eventually lands with Trinity or Regional Independent Media or any other suitor, the likelihood is that it will first have to undergo the months of uncertainty necessitated by a Monopolies Commission inquiry. Someone will have to run the business during that time. John Allwood, the former finance director now running Mirror's regional titles, might be perfectly able to slip into the role, but that would leave his chair to fill. An MMC inquiry is not the easiest environment in which to recruit top talent and it also makes enormous demands on the team that is *in situ*. Mirror may benefit from maintaining the status quo a little longer.

That, of course, would not be easy, given the depths to which relations appear to have sunk. But while the calls for Monty's head have been loud they have not been unanimous. Some shareholders may be bemused by the way in which Trinity assumed most favoured bidder status despite an offer which appeared to value Mirror at rather less than the Candover-backed cash from RIM.

With the executive directors now caught in the cross-fire, the atmosphere at Mirror's Canary Wharf headquarters may now have been soured too much for any compromise to be possible. But if Sir Victor and Mr Montgomery were able to shake hands and declare a cease fire, at least temporarily, it could be to the benefit of shareholders and staff.

Then the bidders could be left to get on with the fighting.

Bank on Don to take a gap year

Donald Cruickshank has the awesome responsibility of making sure that the dawning of the new millennium does not wreak havoc across the nation. That is hardly enough to keep a former telecoms regulator fully occupied: Mr Cruickshank only needs two days a week to beat the bug. Now he has found another little task to fill another couple of days each week: he is going to sort out Britain's banks.

Banks tend to feature high on the hit list of most governments, being a favourite subject for consumer gripes. If the time is not right to hit them with a windfall tax, then a tough-sounding inquiry is not a bad alternative.

Mr Cruickshank has at least found some new avenues of investigation to pursue alongside the inevitable inquest into whether or not the banks are failing in their duty to provide finance for small firms. The 'equity gap' is the abominable snowman of the financial world, an elusive beast which some otherwise sane individuals will insist exists despite all evidence to the contrary. Mr Cruickshank's quest for the mythical gap is going to take him to Germany, France and the United States to see whether it is still in existence in those countries. But before he concludes that it is thriving in London, he should seek confirmed sightings rather than mere anecdotal evidence. We all know that James Dyson encountered the gap, or something very similar to it, when he tried to launch his vacuum cleaner but where are the other victims? Multimillionaire Mr Dyson does not seem too badly scarred by the experience.

Indeed, since he succeeded in maintaining ownership of his business rather than handing over large chunks of equity in return for funding, he could be said to have benefited from his original difficulties in raising funding for his project.

Mr Cruickshank is more likely to dig up ammunition against the banks when he wanders away from the equity gap to look at the issues surrounding credit card handling and the payments demanded of retailers for this service. The larger organisations such as supermarkets can look after themselves when it comes to agreeing terms with the operating networks but smaller businesses have long resented the charges.

Mr Cruickshank is also suspicious of the way banks aim to bundle their products together. They like to dress it up as offering additional services to customers but it does not always feel that way.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained

The provision of equity capital is the *raison d'être* of 3i, and it has a good record of spotting winners. However much research goes into deciding to back one of the hundreds of companies that trek to 3i's Waterloo offices every year, there is also an element of luck and of good timing in the venture capital industry.

Clearly, in its approach to Electra, 3i was hoping it had both on its side. The idea of the bid is rooted more in opportunism than enormous synergies. Electra is responding accordingly, making clear that its response will not be based on principle but on price. If Brian Larcombe thinks that he can pick up Electra at a wide discount to net assets, then he is being something of an optimistic. If Michael Stoddart thinks that a venture capital business can command a chunky premium to assets in this sort of climate, then he is sharing the pink spectacles.

Electra is operating in an increasingly competitive market. Its reluctance to join the dizzy rush to chase up prices for big deals has left it looking somewhat laid-back of late. Far better that than to be suffering the after effects now being experienced by CinVen as it realises that rivals were right to marvel at the price it was prepared to pay for magazine publisher IPC.

Bringing Electra on board would bolster 3i and give it the weight to ensure its continuing presence in the FTSE 100. But its assets may also appeal to other wealthy venture capitalists in search of a deal.

Bleak House

AFTER the extraordinarily rapid demise of Sears, the hunt is on for the next retail takeover target. Anyone expecting it to be House of Fraser is heading for disappointment. There are better bargains to be found in the stores than in HoF shares. Despite the recent, relatively bullish, trading statement from the company, Fraser does not offer the neat break-up potential that Philip Green will quickly extract at Sears. The Fayed brothers knew what they were doing when they sold HoF and kept Harrods.

Renamed Lonrho to pursue £1bn merger

BY JASON NISSÉ

LONRHO, which is to change its name to Lonmin after shedding all but its mining businesses in the last year, is to pursue a £1 billion merger with Implats, the South African platinum group, if European regulators allow it.

The European Court has been considering an appeal by Implats against a ruling two years ago which effectively stopped Implats' parent company at the time, Anglo American, from taking a 30 per cent stake in Lonrho. Anglo's voting rights were restricted and it eventually sold the stake back to Lonrho at a loss last year.

Implats retains a 27 per cent stake in Lonrho Platinum, the largest and most profitable part of Lonrho after the restructure.

Sir John Craven, Lonrho's chairman, said yesterday that Lonrho either wants to pursue a merger with Implats, so creating the world's second-largest platinum miner, or else buy out the minority stake in Lonrho Platinum, a deal that could cost Lonrho up to £100 million.

"When the outcome of the [European Court] case is heard, we will then go into discussions with Implats," said Sir John.

The cleaning up of the relationship with Implats is the largest outstanding issue in the process of reshaping Lonrho which has been going on for the past two years.

Last year Lonrho sold its hotels operations, demerged its African trading side and expanded Duiker, the coalminer in which it has a 70 per cent stake, through a merger with its rival, Tavistock.

Sir John also ruled out selling the company's 33 per cent in Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold mining business, saying it gave the company a useful insight into the gold business.

The strength of platinum — caused by demand for its use in catalytic convertors and worries about suppliers from Russia — boosted Lonrho's results in the year to September 30.

Profits from continuing operations rose from £49 million to £81 million. Pre-tax profits fell from £196 million to £84 million, but these figures were distorted by a combination of profits from the sale of businesses and the £69 million write-off of the group's investment in Hondo, a gas exploration venture.

Earnings per share, before exceptionals, rose from 24.4p to 41½p and a final dividend of 10p makes a total of 17.2p.

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Sir John Craven ruled out selling the company's stake in Ashanti, the Ghanaian business

Monsoon's shares hit by fall in profit

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MONSOON, the clothing retailer that floated last year, reported a sharp drop in interim profits yesterday, causing its shares to slide to a new low.

Pre-tax profits in its half year to November 28 fell from £14.97 million to £11.82 million. Like-for-like sales in the half were down 6 per cent, and in the following seven weeks they fell 9 per cent.

Monsoon shares closed down 9p at 46½p. The company was floated at 198p a share last February, when Peter Simon, its founder, sold 25 per cent of the company.

After fully diluted earnings per share of 4.4p (5.65p pro forma), the company will pay a 1.5p maiden interim dividend.

Andrew May, finance director, said that despite the "frustrating" share price, there was no thought of taking the company private again.

Field the target of second US packaging group

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

FIELD GROUP, the specialist packaging company, has become the object of a tug-of-war between two rival US bidders after Shorewood Packaging said it was considering mounting a challenge to last week's £194 million takeover offer from Chesapeake.

Following yesterday's announcement, shares in Field, which rose 23p to 316½p on Thursday after Chesapeake announced its 320p bid, rose a further 21p to close at 337½p.

Directors of Field, who sent an offer document to shareholders on Friday recommending Chesapeake's offer, yesterday advised shareholders to take no action until details of a new counter-bid had been made clear.

Shorewood, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, specialises in producing packaging for the computer software, cosmetics and toiletries, food and home entertainment markets in North America and China. It is thought to have been attracted to Field's strength in the European pharmaceutical packaging market. Field also has strong market positions in drinks and tobacco packaging, although these businesses have been hit by exposure to the economic turmoil in the Far East.

Field has 16 factories in the UK, including sites in Nottingham, Portsmouth, East Kilbride, Newcastle and Thatcham. Shares of Field have fallen over the past 12 months in reaction to a decline in first-half profits and a warning on trading.

Internet deals soar to $145bn

INTERNET-RELATED deals last year totalled $145 billion (£88 billion), or 30 per cent of all technology merger and acquisition activity worldwide (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The value rose almost tenfold, from $16.1 billion in 1997, according to the annual M&A report of Broadview International, the merchant bank specialising in information technology and media.

Most deals — 595 in 1998, against 539 in 1997 — were in North America, but the European total rose from 87 deals in 1997 to 137 last year.

Values of mergers involving Internet components that bridged the gap between telecommunications and software and hardware went through the roof.

Victor Basta, of Broadview, said: "1998 was the year the Internet became a consumer phenomenon."

Chrysalis pays £5.4m for Global

BY CHRIS AYRES

THE music publisher owning the rights to such hits as The Jacksons' *Don't Blame It On the Boogie*, has been bought by Chrysalis, the media group headed by Chris Wright.

Global Music Group, a German company set up more than 30 years ago by Peter Kirsten, owns 15,000 local and international copyrights. It also has sub-publishing agreements for music by artists including Elvis Presley.

Chrysalis will pay £5.4 million for Global, of which £2.7 million will be covered by issuing 413,699 shares.

Global will change its name to Global Chrysalis Music. Mr Kirsten will sign a two-year contract to become managing director.

Bid approach boosts LIG

BY PAUL DURMAN

LONDON International Group, the manufacturer of Durex condoms, has received an unsolicited approach that may lead to a £650 million takeover.

Shares in LIG, which were strong on Friday, jumped a further 35p to 163½p, a price that values the company at almost £570 million.

Ansell Healthcare and Carter-Wallace, the leading American condom-makers, were regarded as the most likely bidders.

LIG said that talks with the potential bidder were at a very early stage.

A spokesman for the company said: "It's very preliminary. We are not asking to be taken over. We've stated that we're on course to go back to double-digit growth next year. Why sell the company at this low level?"

Shares in LIG reached 231p last July but by last week they had halved in value. This followed the company's December profits warning, necessitated by production problems at a medical gloves factory in Alabama and the impact of cheap Asian imports.

Under Nick Hodges, the chief executive, LIG has recovered from its problems in the early 1990s to concentrate on condoms and the premium end of the medical gloves market. It recently launched Durex in the US in an effort to create a global brand.

Shortage of engineers at Filtronic

FILTRONIC, the telecoms electronics company, berated the lack of suitably qualified technicians yesterday (writes Robert Cole).

Professor David Rhodes, chairman, said the company was suffering from a shortage of electronic engineers up to PhD level.

Filtronic supplies electronic gadgetry to the makers of mobile phone handsets and base transmission stations.

Pre-tax profits for the half year to November 30 were 14 per cent ahead at £5.8 million but before interest payments the operating profit was £8.9 million against £5.4 million. Earnings per share fell back to 7.1p from 7.3p, because the company issued shares to help pay for an acquisition.

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US costs to impact on Haynes

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

HAYNES PUBLISHING, the motor repair manuals producer, has warned shareholders that profits over the coming year will be reduced because of the financial burden of increasing its share of the US market.

The group, whose manuals account for almost all car repair book sales in Britain, said it has now increased its share of the American market from 60 to 80 per cent.

The announcement came as it posted reduced first-half pre-tax profits of £2.4 million (£2.5 million) on turnover down at £13.2 million (£13.4 million).

John Haynes, chairman, said: "Sometimes you have to take a knock on the nose to help yourself in the long term and that is what we have done. We're a tough company and I hope our shareholders understand that we're investing in our future."

Over the course of the past six months, Haynes has replaced its most significant US competitor in two retail chains, comprising more than 1,100 stores.

In the six months to November 30, profits in North America, which fell by 17 per cent, were adversely affected when one large customer ceased trading and a strike hit its paper supplies.

However, pre-tax profits in the UK and Europe exceeded market expectations, rising 43 per cent despite a shortfall in sales in the second quarter. Mr Haynes said the group had benefited from improved margins and production efficiencies gained from printing more of the manuals in-house.

Mr Haynes said the group planned to continue expanding its European and South American operations over the coming year.

Earnings per share were down to 9.3p (9.8p), while the interim dividend has been maintained at 5.8p. Shares in Haynes fell 7½p to 177½p.

★★★ Worth buying

STOCK MARKET FRASER NELSON

Takeovers make traders forget Chinese turmoil

LONDON shares rebounded from heavy early losses as a fresh wave of takeovers helped the City to forget its fears of a financial crisis in China.

In the first half hour of trading, the FTSE 100 index fell almost 120 points on word that China would devalue the yuan and trigger a meltdown in Asian currencies.

But after **LucasVarity**, **Electra IT** and **London International Group** confirmed bid approaches, the bulls returned to help the index close up 19.7 to 5880.9.

LucasVarity's secret was out early on. Its shares closed up 29¼p to 244p — but trading had closed before it admitted a 280p-a-share approach.

Electra IT is still discussing its price, but its shares added 119p to 682½p — capitalising the company at £1.18 billion.

London International, which was firmly denying widespread rumours of a takeover approach on Friday, changed its tune in the afternoon and trumpeted an "unsolicited proposal". Some dealers expect a bid at 160p a share; its shares added 35p to 163½p.

So who could be next? Speculation surrounded **Allied Irish Banks**, 25p better at £12.30. Talk centres around Deutsche Bank with a £14.50 a share bid, and some are convinced that the bid will come through by the end of this week.

There was plenty of interest in the hotel sector following our report on Saturday that **Ladbroke**, ¼p off at 215¾p, has been talking to **Stakis**, 1½p harder at 106½p. There are also suggestions that it is keeping an eye on **Vaux**, 11p better at 244½p.

Shares of **Thistle** were off 6p at 106½p ahead of today's trading statement, which is expected to disappoint.

Recent whispers of a big acquisition by **Granada**, 51p better at £10.14, were dampened as it emerged that the media and hospitality group has just cancelled credit lines of almost £400 million.

A City source said: "You can guarantee it would not be cancelling them if it had a big deal up its sleeve."

House of Fraser was up another 8p to 92p. Shami Ahmed, the man behind Joe Bloggs, is reported to be making a bid for the company, but his fans were yesterday bailing out. They believe he is baulking at the share price, now 80 per cent above last month's low.

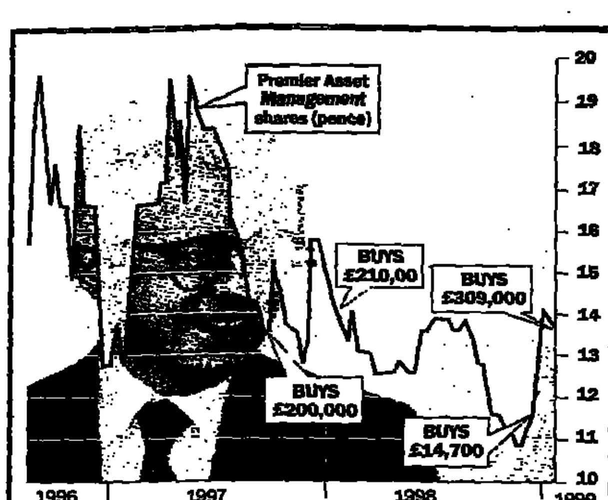
Rage Software shares leapt 20 per cent to 14¾p after confirming that it is in talks with Microsoft about licensing *Ruud Gullit's Striker*, its latest game. Its shares were among the most heavily traded, with 28.6 million changing hands against an average daily volume of 2.1 million. Dealers point out that at yesterday's price, the shares are still 10½p — or 42 per cent — off the high achieved in 1995. Some see Rage as a prime takeover candidate.

Its rise was made easier by rival **Gremlin Group**, which said it had received a takeover approach. This helped its shares 26p to 100p.

This put the market in a mood to have a flutter on other computer companies — so cue another 31 per cent rise in **On-Line**. The computer games company is now at 127½p — far from its 12½p level earlier this month.

One dealer said: "On-line is so small that an early deal of 2,000 shares is enough to move the price. When it's moving up, everyone piles in."

Premier Asset Management, an £11 million AIM-listed stockbroker, has been attracting attention recently — mainly because Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of United News & Media, has been ploughing a substantial chunk of his personal fortune into the shares.



Lord Stevens of Ludgate, chairman of United News & Media, has built up a 12.5 per cent stake in Premier Asset Management

The company has £320 million under management, and hopes to increase this to £1 billion within three years. Lord Stevens is its non-executive chairman and must fancy its chances.

Earl Cairns, chairman of **Allied Zurich**, has also spent £93,300 of his own cash in shares of the newly listed insurer at 933p apiece. They added 9p to 913p yesterday.

Lady in Leisure looked in distress yesterday, falling another 27½p to 95p.

It transpired that Scott Campbell, its co-founder and until last Friday its managing director, has sold his remaining £625,000 stake at 100p a share.

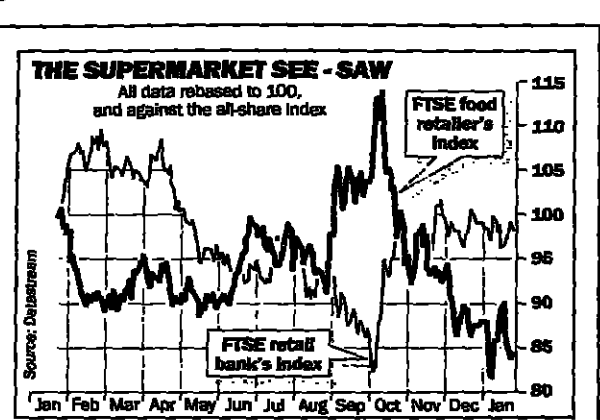
His friends and former colleagues did their best to mop them back up, but only took £445,000 at the same price.

But the dealers were still suspicious that Mr Campbell should sell at 100p when the shares were 180p a few weeks ago.

Arena Leisure has been a peculiar little mover of late. Two weeks ago, its shares were 11p apiece. They have been bounding up ever since, another 2½p firmer to 16¾p yesterday — a move dealers are unable to explain.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Comments by Eddie George that rates would rise if consumer confidence recovers sent a chill through the futures pit. Treasury 10 per cent 2001 slid 0.16 to 110.19 and Treasury 6 per cent 2028 fell back 0.79 to 130.03.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US blue chips fell, dogged by worries about earnings and Brazil. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 33.47 points to 9,087.20.



AFTER a sharp fall in the Hang Seng index, London's banking sector was sure to take a beating yesterday.

News of the UK Government's investigation into retail banking pushed the sector further into retreat and six of the worst ten FTSE 100 fallers were banks.

The risers were a mix of bid targets, telecoms companies (rebounding from Friday's mini-crash) and, of course, the supermarkets.

Whenever investors bale out of the financial sector, they rush straight for the dowdy old "safety" stocks, such as food producers and UK-based leisure and transport stocks.

In the past 12 months, the see-saw relationship between the banking and food retailing sectors has worked more harmoniously than ever — with the two moving in almost perfect symetry.

The current gap suggests that the supermarkets have swung too far down, and may recover considerable ground before their reporting season starts.

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9087.20 (-33.47)
S&P Composite	1222.78 (-2.41)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14208.81 (+54.41)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9499.50 (-239.02)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	525.36 (+6.63)
Sydney:	
AO	2827.9 (-20.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4982.45 (-36.83)
Singapore:	
Straits	1398.02 (-80.73)
Brussels:	
BEL20	3384.86 (-18.91)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4050.80 (+31.47)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	n/a
London:	
FT 30	3448.7 (+24.8)
FTSE 100	5880.9 (+19.7)
FTSE 250	4835.2 (+6.1)
FTSE 350	2770.0 (+8.4)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2725.83 (+14.66)
FTSE All-Share	2872.99 (+7.63)
FTSE Non Financials	2740.55 (+17.69)
FTSE Fixed Interest	158.22 (-0.23)
FTSE Govt Secs	116.77 (-0.40)
Bargains	68122
SEAQ Volume	937.3m
US$	1.6574 (+0.0033)
Euro	0.6975 (-0.0027)
Exchange Index	100.2 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987=100

AIM VCT	100	...	
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	89	...	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	97½	...	
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	119	...	
Five Arrws Uts Cv Ln 2040	102¼	–	½
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	–	¼
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	96¾	...	
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100	...	
Virtual Internet	235	+	5
Yeoman II Equity Units	100	+	½
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼	...	
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	95½	+	¼
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	116¼	...	

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Adwest	134	+ 60½	+ 82.3
Peptide Thera	116½	+ 35½	+ 43.8
Lon Intl	163½	+ 35	+ 27.2
Ashley (Laura)	14¾	+ 2¾	+ 22.9
Electra Inv	682½	+119	+ 21.1
Telspec	69½	+ 11½	+ 19.8
Arena Leis	16¾	+ 2½	+ 17.5
LucasVarity	244	+ 29¼	+ 13.6
Fortune	2¼	+ ¼	+ 12.5
SEC Group	51½	+ 5	+ 10.7
Intelligent Env	84	+ 8	+ 10.5
Stirling Group	26½	+ 2½	+ 10.4
TeleWest	250¾	+ 23½	+ 10.3
Portsmth Sund	1650	+150	+ 10.0
Regent Inns	151	+ 13½	+ 9.8
Hse of Fraser	92	+ 8	+ 9.5
Nord Anglia	174	+ 14	+ 8.7
Powerscreen	123½	+ 9½	+ 8.3
IOC Intl	60½	+ 4	+ 7.0
Kwik-Fit	417½	+ 26½	+ 6.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
BTG	262½	– 40	– 13.2
Easynet	235	– 35	– 12.9
Goode Durrant	338	– 38½	– 10.2
Lon Forfaiting	60	– 6½	– 9.7
Vardon	123	– 12½	– 9.2
Cornwell Prkr	52½	– 5	– 8.8
Chemring	94	– 8½	– 8.2
FI Group	337½	– 29¼	– 7.9
Total Systems	46½	– 4	– 7.9
Intercare Gp	52½	– 4½	– 7.8
Rotte & Nolan	213	– 17	– 7.3
BLP Group	71	– 5	– 6.5
City Centre Rest	64	– 4½	– 6.5
Firth Rixson	72½	– 5	– 6.4
Jardine Strat	91¾	– 5½	– 5.6
Johnson Fry	119	– 7	– 5.5
Thistle Hotels	106½	– 6	– 5.3
Sappi	195¼	– 10½	– 5.1

Rice feels the heat

IT SEEMS that Victor Rice's attempt to move LucasVarity to the US may yet make money for his shareholders — although not in the way he envisaged. The narrow failure of the car components group to secure investor support for a change of domicile has allowed Federal-Mogul to strike. Federal-Mogul's conditional offer of 280p a share is equal to the best price LucasVarity's shareholders have seen for all but a few days of the past five years. With manufacturing unpopular, and Mr Rice even more unpopular, many UK investors will be tempted to accept.

Unfortunately, they don't have the option at the moment because LucasVarity is refusing serious talks with Federal-Mogul while it completes its own strategic review. And the American company will not put its money on the table without being given the chance to perform "confirmatory due diligence". It is intimated, not entirely credibly, that a hostile offer would be pitched below 280p.

The irony is that Federal-Mogul is the company Mr Rice would like LucasVarity to be — growing rapidly by making acquisition after acquisition, and well-regarded by its stock market. LucasVarity was, once again, left looking flat-footed yesterday. Its first evasive statement about discussing "a wide range of strategic alternatives" appeared only shortly before Federal-Mogul turned up the heat by going public on its bid intentions. Mr Rice must either negotiate with Federal-Mogul, or come up with a better offer.

The breakneck growth may make UK institutions wary of accepting the Federal-Mogul shares as part payment. But it seems that payday is now coming. *Hold.*

Lonrho

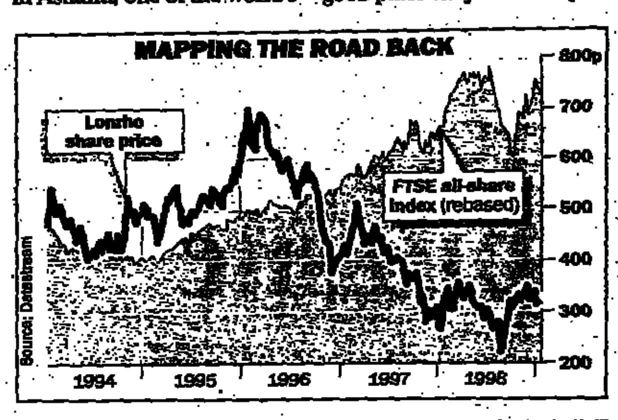
LONRHO is in danger of becoming easy to understand. In the old days it was a complex conglomerate, with all sorts of strange and wonderful businesses, including having a standing army in Mozambique and a joint venture with the Libyans. But at least it paid a good dividend.

Now, having sold its hotels and shuffled its randomly performing African trading businesses into Lonrho Africa, it is purely and simply a mining company. Having decided to sort out its relationship with Implats, the South African platinum miner, it will be even more focused on precious metals and coal.

However, it is not all good news. There is a dreadful new name to contend with — Lonmin being a halfway house between the old name and a change of culture. And then the famously generous dividend is a thing of the past as "Lonmin" starts investing in its mining assets.

With this new-found simplicity has come a rerating of Lonrho shares. The market has come to realise that the company is one of the world's lowest-cost producers of platinum, has a 33 per cent stake in Ashanti, one of the world's lowest-cost producers of gold, and will continue to be a low-cost producer of coal so long as the South African rand keeps falling.

Of course, it is still heavily dependent on commodity prices. But, if you feel that the gold price is stabilising, coal has reached bottom and platinum prices will not fall, Lonrho is a good place for your money.



Electra

A BID is about the only way that the discount beween Electra Investment Trust's net asset value and the share price will be cleared. But shareholders should think twice before surrendering into the arms of 3i.

If they take 3i paper they must consider whether 3i shares can continue to buck the norm for investment trusts and trade at a premium to net asset value. They must also be convinced that Electra and 3i together will be better than Electra on its own. If net asset growth at an independent Electra is demonstrably better than at 3i, it would be better to stick with the discounted Electra shares.

Electra has a better record generating NAV growth than 3i, but the past performance differential is not enough to replace a cleared NAV discount. Moreover, now that the bid genie — and NAV discount closure hope — is out of the bottle Electra's days as an independent are numbered.

Electra's true NAV is key. Unquoted companies are notoriously hard to value and, while it is hard to believe, they can be undervalued by directors.

Yet the argument is about more than the discount. Electra's expertise in managing private equity deals is valuable and will be attractive to an American buyer seeking an entry into the European MBO market.

Electra shareholders can and should expect more. Despite the rise yesterday, nimble-footed buyers can still make a quick turn, too.

Filtronic

FILTRONIC is a variation on the telecoms theme. It started out in the 1970s with high-tech military hardware, but is now firmly switched into consumer mobiles.

Filtronic's future is founded on the growth in popularity of mobile phones. Subscriber numbers are growing and consumers and base station building network providers are bound to want, and need, updated equipment. Filtronic will be kept busy handling more sophisticated and powerful technology.

Filtronic is relatively small but close association with manufacturers such as Nokia and Motorola help Filtronic's stability. It also has heavy-ish debts but the pre-Christmas issue of high-yield bonds puts the finances on a firmer footing. Interest cover of four to five times is not generous, but is comfortable given the firm's cash generation abilities.

Profit-takers led the shares down 14p to 676p yesterday. Even so the stock trades on the equivalent of 30 times estimated current-year earnings per share and 22 times for the year to May 2000.

Filtronic shares are neither cheap nor risk-free. But they are worth holding.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	893-892	May	1011-1008
May	910-909	Jul	1028-1026
Jul	930-929	Sep	1044 SLR
Sep	950-949	Dec	[illegible]
Dec	973-971		
Mar	[illegible]		Volume: 13739

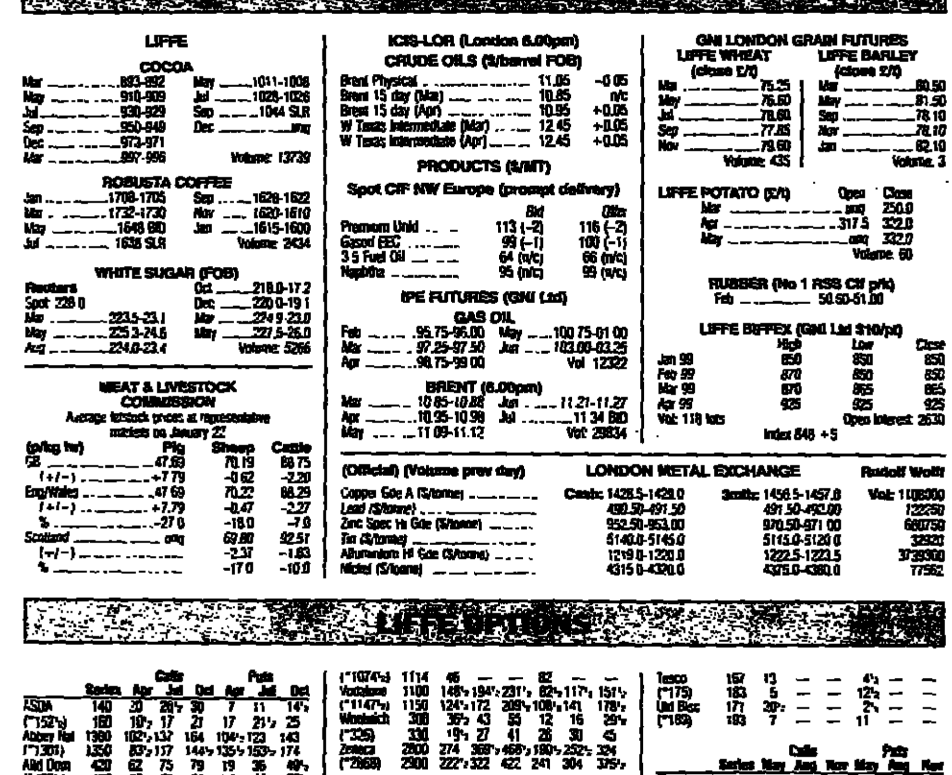
ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.05	-0.05
Brent 15 day (Mar)	10.85	n/c
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.95	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	12.45	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	12.45	+0.05

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	75.25	Mar	80.50
May	76.60	May	81.50
Jul	78.60	Sep	78.10
Sep	77.85	Nov	78.10
Nov	79.60	Jan	82.10
			Volume: 3

[illegible]



[illegible]

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	120.85	120.85	119.90	120.04	31630
Previous open interest 104819	Jun 99				120.74	0
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				117.60	0
Previous open interest 0						
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				109.66	0
Previous open interest 64	Jun 99				109.66	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Mar 99	115.40	115.55	115.22	115.28	7525
Previous open interest 43126						
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 99	130.20	130.30	130.12	130.30	857
	Jun 99				128.39	0
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.500	94.500	94.400	94.420	26898
	Jun 99	94.850	94.850	94.700	94.720	47512
Previous open interest 1118169	Sep 99	95.050	95.050	94.910	94.928	45635
Three Mth Euromark	N/A					
Previous open interest 0						
Three Mth Eurolira	N/A					
Previous open interest 0						
Three Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.720	98.760	98.700	98.710	8492
Previous open interest 182117	Jun 99	98.630	98.650	98.590	98.600	6093
Three Mth Euro	Apr 99				97.105	0
Previous open interest 11282	Jun 99	97.185	97.200	97.165	97.170	17372
FTSE 100	Mar 99	5760.0	5925.0	5755.0	5905.0	23559
Previous open interest 185085	Jun 99				5943.0	0

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance House 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy 2 mth 5½, 3 mth 5¼, Sell 2 mth 5½; 3 mth 5¼

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 6¼, close 6					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅞	n/a	5¾	5⅝	5½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	...	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.87	--	4.87	4.87	5.04
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	–	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	3-2⅞	3-2⅞	3ds-3pr
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Bullion: Open: $286.30-286.60 Close: $287.90-288.40 High: $287.90-288.40 Low: $286.20-286.60 AM: $286.30 PM: $287.70

Krugerrand: $292.00-294.00 (£176.00-178.00)

Platinum: $350.50 (£211.35) **Silver:** $5.185 (3.125) **Palladium:** $321.00 (£193.55)

Mkt Rates for January 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	10.658-10.673	10.659-10.667	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	1.4325-1.4345	1.4326-1.4343	0.15-0.17ds	0.44-0.47ds
Montreal	2.5107-2.5188	2.5107-2.5136	0.22-0.15pr	0.47-0.33pr
New York	1.6570-1.6610	1.6570-1.6578	0.148-0.127pr	0.323-0.292pr
Oslo	12.338-12.368	12.338-12.358	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.802-12.829	12.802-12.823	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	188.73-189.17	188.73-188.93	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.2900-2.2953	2.2900-2.2927	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel Premium = pr Discount = ds

Australia	1.5805-1.5817
Canada	1.5168-1.5178
Denmark	6.4284-6.4304
Euro	1.1557-1.1567
Hong Kong	7.7493-7.7498
Japan	113.76-113.86
Malaysia	3.7998-3.8002
Norway	7.4425-7.4525
Singapore	1.6870-1.6880
Sweden	7.7160-7.7260
Switzerland	1.3799-1.3810

Argentina peso*	1.6572-1.6595
Australia dollar	2.6241-2.6270
Bahrain dinar	0.6175-0.6317
Brazil real*	1.9992-2.0017
Cyprus pound	0.8230-0.8418
Euro	1.4334-1.4356
Finland markka	8.4225-8.5619
Greece drachma	455.25-465.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.8631-12.8693
India rupee	69.66-71.26
Indonesia rupiah	15511.00-15811.00
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4945-0.5059
Malaysia ringgit	6.3073-6.3106
New Zealand dollar	3.0991-3.1066
Pakistan rupee	80.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9625-6.0899
Singapore dollar	2.7993-2.8026
S Africa rand (com)	9.9690-10.1878
U A E dirham	6.0150-6.1536

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

3i	1,459	Legal & Gn	1,778
ASDA Gp	5,994	Lloyds TSB	6,550
Abbey Nt	1,537	LucasVarity	8,297
Allnce & Leic	918	Marks Spr	11,934
Allied Dom	1,927	Nat Grid	10,980
Allied Zrch	2,415	Nat Power	3,811
Amvescap	534	NatWest Bk	9,817
AB Foods	703	Norwich Un	2,436
Bk of Scot	2,688	Orange	1,867
BAA	1,473	P & O	1,451
Barclays	2,428	Pearson	1,729
Bass	666	PowerGen	652
BG	9,254	Prudential	2,825
Billiton	1,155	Railtrack	574
BOC	216	Reckitt Col	1,354
Boots	2,231	Reed Intl	1,186
BP Amoco	12,180	Rentokil	1,068
BAe	5,741	Reuters	3,680
BA	6,356	Rio Tinto	3,038
Brt Am Tob	2,247	Rolls Royce	2,178
Brit Energy	2,544	Ryl & Sun	6,258
BSkyB	2,951	Ryl Bk Scl	3,615
BT	6,594	Safeway	1,737
BTR	4,996	Sainsbury	2,621
CGU	2,083	Schroders	124
COLT Telecom	1,042	Scot & New	381
Cable Wire	4,853	Scot Sthn Engy	1,473
Cadbury	565	Scott Power	2,795
Carlton Cms	2,335	Securicor	1,850
Centrica	3,047	Svrn Trent	233
Compass Gp	1,862	Shell Trans	13,722
Diageo	3,047	Siebe	15,864
Dixons Grp	4,843	Smiths Ind	343
EMI	831	SmKl Bch	7,201
Gallaher	1,029	Stagecoach	883
Gen Elec	19,055	Std Chartd	2,151
GKN	718	Sun Life	82
Glaxo Well	4,615	TeleWest	23,655
Granada	3,792	Tesco	13,413
GUS	3,009	Thames W	683
GRE	5,941	Tomkins	10,524
Hanson	494	Unilever	3,793
ICI	1,220	Utd News	2,335
Imperial Tob	1,228	Utd Utilities	1,353
HSBC	4,331	Vodafone	12,983
Halifax	1,335	WPP	2,122
Hays	2,137	Whitbread	824
Kingfisher	2,657	Williams	2,938
Ladbroke	1,883	Woolwich	5,218
Land Secs	4,422	Zeneca	2,048

	Jan 25 midday	Jan 22 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Brazil is not being offered the correct medicine

Britain's recovery after leaving the ERM is a better example of how to react after devaluation

Statistically, it may be the eighth-biggest economy in the world but, as General De Gaulle once said: "Brazil is not a serious country." The absence of seriousness was demonstrated not so much in the Brazilian Government's inability to stick to its core economic pledge to avoid a devaluation. The real lack of seriousness has been shown in the Brazilian Government's and the world's response.

The question about Brazil that preoccupies most economic commentators at present is whether the finanical maelstrom will now engulf other countries that rely on exchange-rate links, ranging from Argentina to Hong Kong and China. Others ask whether the success of Argentina and Hong Kong in defending their currency pegs implies that other countries such as Brazil, and perhaps Indonesia and Russia, should follow them in abandoning national currencies and imply adopting the dollar, the euro or the yen.

But these questions are beside the point. Argentina and Hong Kong are both in a totally different category from Brazil. They totally abandoned their monetary autonomy by guaranteeing that every currency note that they issue is backed by a dollar held at the central bank. More importantly, they have created the two key conditions under which a currency board of this type can work: they have rigorously controlled their government borrowing; and they have convinced their citizens that there can be no benefit whatsoever in having a national monetary policy independent of the dictates of the US Federal Reserve. In Argentina, the Government has been able to achieve this through a constitutional revolution after decades of economic chaos and violent dicatatorship.

In Hong Kong, the case has been easier to make, simply on the grounds that Hong Kong is a tiny open economy far too small to derive any real benefits from managing its own currency and setting its own interest rates.

These conditions simply do not apply in Brazil. Like Russia and Indonesia, Brazil is much more politically unruly, much larger and much less exposed to foreign trade than either Argentina or Hong Kong. It also has a government that is much worse at collecting taxes and living within its means.

It is the Brazilian Government's post-devaluation policy that represents the really serious dimension of this crisis — and illustrates the lack of seriousness, both in the world's approach. Nobody can blame Brazil for having failed to defend its exchange rate in the middle of a global financial crisis and a deep domestic recession. Similar challenges have repeatedly overwhelmed far richer and more sophisticated economies, ranging from Korea in 1997 to Britain, Italy and Sweden in 1992 and France in 1983. In fact nobody outside the International Monetary Fund and the US Treasury was much surprised by the collapse of Brazil's exchange rate policy on January 13 and the real's 30 per cent devaluation. The absence of any surprise was well demonstrated by the relatively calm financial reaction around the world.

Why, then, do I say that Brazil is not behaving, or being treated, as a serious country? Because the IMF and the US Treasury are acting in a fundamentally frivolous manner — pushing the Brazilian Government towards a literally incredible and wrongheaded economic framework that is almost guaranteed to collapse. After the ERM traumas of 1992 in Italy, Scandinavia and Britain and the more recent currency crises in Asia, a few general lessons about devaluations should surely have been learnt.

The three most important principles of a post-devaluation policy can be readily stated by anyone who recalls the rapid economic recovery after White Wednesday in Britain. The first principle is that the Government must never raise interest rates or waste foreign exchange reserves in trying to "defend" a currency which the markets have already succeeded in knocking off a previously established peg. The second is that the only right way to control inflation in such circumstances is to set out and implement a credible plan for reducing the public sector's budget deficit in a gradual but deliberate way. The third and most important principle is that stability can be restored in only one way in a country where financial and economic confidence has been completely shattered: by reviving economic growth and creating a clear prospect of rising profitability and falling unemployment.

Unfortunately, the Brazilian authorities, apparently under pressure from the IMF and the US Treasury, are turning all these principles on their head. Instead of cutting interest rates immediately after the devaluation, they have raised them from 30 per cent to even more absurd levels of 50 per cent and above. Instead of accepting the inevitable — that the real will fall well below any reasonable definition of "fair value" before rebounding on the foreign exchanges — Brazil has been wasting anything up to $1 billion of reserves every day in a futile attempt to prevent it from falling "too far". Instead of seizing the opportunity presented by a national crisis to restructure the tax and public spending system and put the public finances on a sustainable footing, they are trying to rush through piecemeal emergency measures with questionable political support.

Brazil is, according to World Bank figures, the world's most unequal and lightly taxed leading economy. The richest 10 per cent of the population receive 47 per cent of the country's total income, and taxes amount to just 19 per cent of GDP.

What Brazil needs to achieve a convincing stabilisation is a fundamental restructuring of its fiscal systems designed to create government surpluses after the economy recovers and to ensure the political acceptablility of sound finances by turning taxes and public spending into instruments of modest redistribution, instead of mechanisms for impoverishing the already poor.

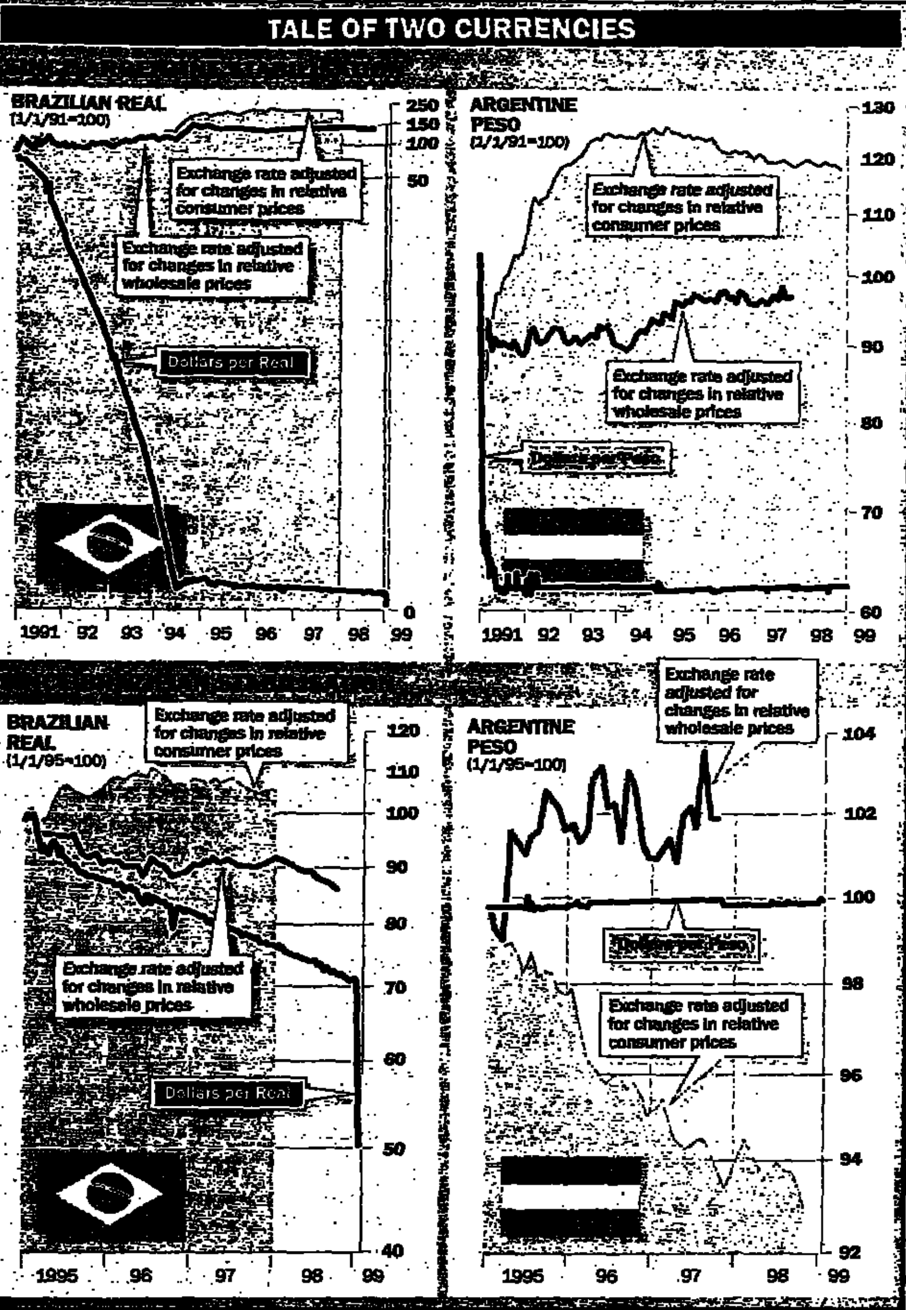
Finally, and most urgently, a post-devaluation economic policy has to create a confident expectation of economic growth. And the only way of achieving that in an economy paralysed by interest rates of 50 per cent plus is by aggressive monetary easing. As Lombard Street Research, the economic consultancy based in London, noted last week in a despairing analysis of Brazilian policy: "The starting point of new policy is not fiscal consolidation and devaluation but fiscal consolidation and aggressive monetary easing. The real should be set free to find its own equilibrium level. Extremely low inflation (running at only 0.5 per cent a year in December) means that Brazil can afford to pursue this line of defence."

The Goverment, however, has so far been doing exactly the opposite. By simultaneously raising interest rates and raising taxes it has been sending a powerful signal to consumers, businessmen and foreign investors that the Brazilian economy will continue to fall steeply in the year ahead. In short, far from restoring financial confidence or increasing political support for its stabilisation measures, the Government, with the IMF and the US Treasury looking over its shoulder, is virtually guaranteeing a succession of economic and political crises stretching as far ahead as the eye can see.

Why have Brazilian policymakers seized so firmly the wrong end of the stick? Why have they been pushed so enthusiastically down the road to financial perdition by the IMF and US Treasury? It cannot be a misunderstanding about economics. Even the ivory-tower officials at the IMF must surely realise that a falling currency cannot be "defended" by raising interest rates. They must be aware that an exchange-rate peg cannot simply be replaced with another at a lower level after the very principle of pegging is seen to have failed. An interest rate of 100 per cent a year offers no attraction to investors who know that the value of their principal could be devalued by 30 per cent in a day.

As Richard Medley, the New York economic consultant, has noted, there has been only one example in living memory of a currency successfully defended with high interest rates: the Mexican peso after the 1995 crisis. "And that only worked because the US Government said to investors: take massively high interest rates and we will gauarantee you repayment."

Perhaps economic officials are so relcutant to let Brazil cut interest rates and allow the real to find its own level because, deep down, they believe that Brazil is still not a "serious country". They do not believe that Brazil's low inflation could possibly be sustainable and therefore they do not want it to follow the example set by Britain in 1992. But unless the US Treasury is willing to undertake and pay for another Mexican-style bailout, the international economic community will soon have to come up with a different approach to the crisis in Brazil. Maybe they will have to start treating Brazil in the same way as any other serious country — a good example to start with would be Britain's experience after White Wednesday.



Millennium gap separates firms from consumers

JASON NISSE

As the rather irritating clock overlooking Blackfriars Bridge in London tells you, there are only 339 days left to the millennium. However, many of us seem to be suffering from new era inertia already. Ask most people what the millennium means to them and, high on the list of answers, will be the replies "a computer bug" or "a dome in Greenwich".

Given this mixture of apathy and hostility, it is a little difficult to use the millennium as a marketing tool. Companies that have listened to some over-trendy luvvy from a design agency talking about the new era being a time for rebirth and cleansing will realise that there could be a perception gap between what consumers want and what marketeers plan to give them.

That is why research being released this week from The Brand Futures Consultancy, the subsidiary of Grey Communications that specialises in marketing strategy, is timely and welcome. Brand Futures' *Opportunity Millennium*, as it is called, took the trouble to quiz 2,000 consumers and 149 directors of companies with turnover of £20 million or more about how they think companies should mark the millennium.

The results are quite startling. The overwhelming reaction from consumers is that companies should mark the new era by "putting something back into the community". The questionnaire suggested a number of different ways of marking the millennium. Obviously, if you ask someone whether they like world peace they will say yes. But, even accepting that, there was a great deal of enthusiasm about potential charitable acts by corporations.

Suggestions that companies should help future generations with grants to schools and youth clubs had 90 per cent of people agreeing, and 70 per cent agreeing strongly. Funding libraries and crèches gained almost as enthusiastic a response, while other suggestions that were popular were providing "a product or service to help to make our lives easier or less stressful in the future" and offering ways to learn new skills and abilities.

Of more interest to businesses is the statistic that 65 per cent of respondents would be more likely to use a company's products and services if they did mark the millennium with one of these charitable acts (this percentage rose to 74 per cent in the 35-54 age group).

However, there is some cynicism as to whether the companies will follow their advice. Asked how they reckoned that the millennium will be marked by corporations, 48 per cent of consumers expect there to be lots of special offers and promotions while only 14 per cent expect the kind of good acts that they rather hope the companies will carry out.

So over to the companies, which were asked what sort of "millennium-marking activities" are now being planned. Not surprisingly, 76 per cent immediately mentioned setting up a task force to deal with the year 2000 computer bug (which makes one wonder what the other 24 per cent are doing about the bug). Next came running an internal communications programme to explain the company's vision for the new era, which is being conducted by 27 per cent of firms. Then came planning how the company and its brands would develop beyond the millennium, mentioned by 14 per cent of companies.

Only 11 per cent mentioned the charitable acts wanted by consumers, the same number as mentioned the dreaded millennium brands that the con-

MARKET LEADER

sumers fear. Simon Ratcliffe, who, with Clive Cooper, runs Brand Futures, said that there appears to be a gap between what consumers want and what companies are going to do. Some, though, have realised that if they use the millennium merely as a blatant marketing device, they will be caught out. BT, Tesco, Marks & Spencer and Walkers Snackfoods are among the companies that have already started some form of community initiative for the millennium, and Brand Futures is full of praise of the NatWest Community Bond, launched last week, which aims to help organisations that otherwise would not be able to obtain bank loans.

Ratcliffe said that if a company had not worked out its millennium marketing strategy by Easter, it would not be able to put anything in place early enough to avoid being swamped in the rush to "mark the millennium".

He believes that the important issue that companies should address is this desire from consumers for companies to "do some good" and that there is no point looking back and celebrating what may already have been achieved: you have to try to work out what you want to achieve in this new era.

It is a difficult task trying to appear fresh and innovative while all of your competitors are attempting to do the same. But the price of failure is to look particularly leaden-footed when the new era comes around.

Simon Ratcliffe, left, and Clive Cooper, who run Brand Futures

BUSINESS LETTER

Panel must recognise impartiality

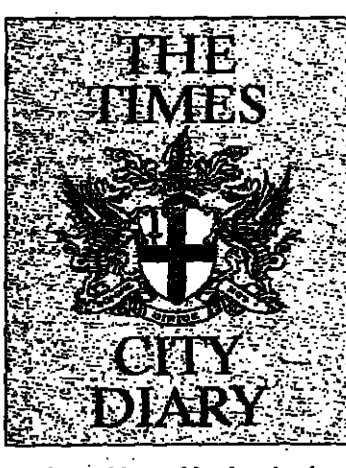
From Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale

Sir, I would like to rectify one point in your Commentary of January 7. I am not questioning the essence of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers. I do question its present operational practice in terms of enforcement of its own Spirit, Principles and Rules, and its Executive Structure, which ignores the "Rule against Bias". I do not suggest that a professional on secondment cannot be trusted to act independently: I do believe that he or she must be seen to be impartial. It is relevant that the Panel itself recognizes the need for impartiality in Section I(e) of the introduction to the Code. It could also recognize this at the executive level as there are three deputy directors general who would have to act if the director-general were indisposed. They could therefore surely act if there is a potential conflict of interest.

Yours faithfully,
WOLFSON,
The Great Universal Stores,
Leconfield House,
Curzon Street,
London W1Y 7FL.

☐ *An incomplete version of this letter was published on January 22.*

No comment



AN UNDIGNIFIED row has broken out between Alan Clark, the cultured MP, and the *Financial Times* and one of its most charming writers. Clark, whose experiences with the opposite sex have often attracted attention, has written a most ungallant letter to the *FT*.

Lucy Kellaway had claimed that Clark had tried to charge £1,000 for an interview while hinting that he "might be able to improve the price somewhat". I have no idea what he might have meant, because Clark, in a letter to the *FT*, confirms the sum but denies offering any such reduction. He continues most cruelly: "The idea of a sofa interview with Ms Kellaway held little appeal to me."

Clark is a guest in the *FT*'s planned celebrity lunch, date as yet undecided, but with places to be auctioned to readers for charity. There is a strong hint in the letter — "while I am delighted to help the Save the Children Fund, I have no desire to promote the *FT*", followed by further abuse — that he may now not attend.

Neither party would return calls on the spat, but I trust more charitable thoughts will prevail.

TECHNICAL problems kept BT Alex Brown, which I persist in thinking of as NatWest but never mind, out of commission for 45 minutes after the markets opened yesterday morning. What went wrong? "The server went down and it took something over half an hour to reboot," someone told me. I think he meant the computers didn't work.

Local difficulty

AS DAVID MONTGOMERY's troubles at Mirror Group worsen — and I cannot find anyone who has worked with him with anything but the *deepest* sympathy — I come across an invitation for a drinks do with the regional press on Thursday. Under the same roof will be Philip Graf of Trinity, which tried to buy Mirror, Chris Oakley of Regional Independent Media, the current bidder, and John Allwood, who runs Mirror Group's local papers and so could even take over from Monty.

So at least one should end up running the company. Also there is Charles Brims of Portsmouth & Sunderland, subject to a hostile takeover bid. What will they find to talk about?

Number game

IT HAS long been an open secret that Bass wants to control Britvic, the soft drinks business. But a deal has been frustrated by the complex ownership structure — Allied Domecq and Whitbread each own almost a quarter, Bass owns almost half and there is even a small stake for PepsiCo.

Now we hear of talks for Bass to buy Allied's holding. The latter wants to sell but has never been quite sure what its stake is worth.

Allied has a new finance director, Philip Bowman. It has been suggested to me that this makes it easier for Allied to work out the numbers and ensure a fair price. Bowman used to be finance director at Bass.

A FIELD day for geologists at the Oneworld alliance of BA and four other airlines. No one can agree on what to call their frequent-flier programmes.

BA's top customers are gold, American Airline goes platinum, Cathay Pacific gives diamonds to its best friends ... why does one get the impression that the marketing men have been involved? As a result Oneworld has had to bring in yet another range of categories, from emerald through sapphire to ruby for the real plebs.

At least they didn't follow the example of the Greek national airline, which recently named its frequent-fliers club Icarus.

Boat people

A REUNION yesterday for Martin Gilbert, chief executive of Aberdeen Asset Management, and Donald MacDonald, who was in charge of the Oxford crew for the 1987 Boat Race — the most famous of recent years, the one when the American crew mutinied.

Aberdeen has just emerged as the new sponsor for the Boat Race. Gilbert used to meet MacDonald on the cricket and rugby pitch when each played for their respective Scottish schools.

They have, however, run across each other since. MacDonald now works for Aon after the insurer bought Alexander Clay in 1997. Aon is Aberdeen's insurer.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk

Sticking an oar in: Martin Gilbert, left, with Donald McDonald

Late rally lifts equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
648	385	Allied Domecq	490	+ 5	5.8	12.0
412½	291½	Bulmer (HP)	298	- 2	6.3	12.3
42½	7	Burn Stewart	14½	...		
795	492	Diageo	655½	- 4	3.8	19.8
900	675	Glenmorangie A	675	...	2.7	18.3
325	225	Highland Dist	224	...	4.6	11.6
344	115	Matthew Clark	242	...	6.7	8.2
58½	16½	Morrison W	28½	...		
202½	125	SA Breweries	137½	- 18¼	3.9	13.9

BANKS

[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

[illegible]

BUILDING MATERIALS

[illegible]

CHEMICALS

[illegible]

CONSTRUCTION

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DISTRIBUTORS

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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

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ELECTRICITY

[illegible]

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

[illegible]

ENGINEERING

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

[illegible]

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE

[illegible]

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

[illegible]

INSURANCE

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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LEISURE & HOTELS

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MEDIA

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

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UNDATED

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OTHER FINANCIAL

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PRINTING & PAPER

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PROPERTY

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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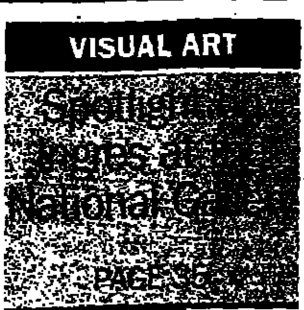
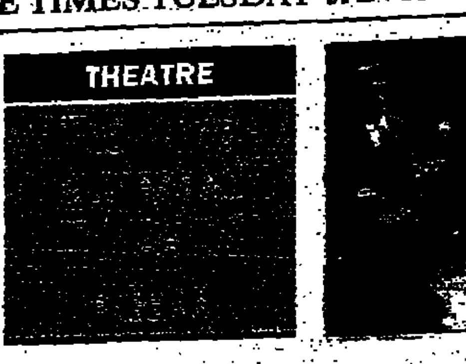
VISUAL ART



THEATRE



Actor Jeremy Northam has made it in Hollywood. So what's he doing at the Almeida — slumming? **Matt Wolf** reports

Jeremy Northam is on the verge of becoming such a ubiquitous cinema presence that one is slightly surprised to find Sandra Bullock's erstwhile co-star in *The Net* sipping coffee in the Almeida Theatre bar preparing for notes from his current play's writer-director, Peter Gill.

The same weekend might instead have found Northam in New York promoting the premiere of *Gloria*, the Sidney Lumet film in which he appears opposite Sharon Stone, or even in Utah at the Sundance Festival, where Northam and the American actor Steve Zahn are generating a terrific buzz as escapers from a chain gang in the independent film *Happy Texas*. In addition, Northam will be seen this year in two screen adaptations of period plays: Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy*, written and directed by David Mamet, and alongside Cate Blanchett and Minnie Driver in the director Oliver Parker's youthful rethinking of Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, both of which cast Northam as establishment figures who may be less stiff-backed than they appear. Also awaiting release is a Sundance entry from last year, *The Misadventures of Margaret*, with Northam as a professor married to Parker Posey's neurotic novelist.

"This is what I've been waiting for," Northam says of the celluloid onslaught, purple sunglasses his only vague nod to the burgeoning film renown that may at last position the 37-year-old actor as a Hugh Grant or Ralph Fiennes-level star. And yet, far from hopping the Atlantic, the actor has chosen to return to the theatre for his first stage appearance since *The Country Wife* for the Royal Shakespeare Company four and a half years ago.

"I got into acting because I like plays," says Jeremy Northam, who is now doing just that in London. But with five new films featuring Northam heading our way, the British actor will soon be on a screen near you

Enter, pursued by fame

What's more, he arrives not as a visiting film star in the Almeida tradition of Kevin Spacey, Juliette Binoche and Liam Neeson, but as one of the eight-person ensemble of Gill's new play, *Certain Young Men*, in which Northam plays David, a gay obstetrician uneasily partnered with Andrew Woodall's married Christopher.

"I grew up within that aesthetic," Northam says of the company feel of the play, which exists in notable contrast to a film career mainly spent playing male second banana to a motley parade of high-powered women, including Bullock, Stone, Mira Sorvino (the critically reviled *Mimic*) and Gwyneth Paltrow (the critically praised *Emma*).

"I got into acting because I like plays. It's nice, too, not to have the pressure of 'How's the weekend box office?' The joy of just doing something like this simply and directly and, you hope, skilfully — without those other pressures — is really quite refreshing." Besides, he adds, "the people who do plays who are perceived as movie stars all come from a very strong theatrical background".

That's certainly true of Northam, who left two years into drama training at Bristol to take a job in Nottingham. Further regional theatre work followed before a career-making stint at the National Theatre, where he won a 1990 Olivier Award for his performance in Richard Eyre's staging of *The Voysey Inheritance* and played no fewer than three parts at varying times in the same director's *Hamlet*. Indeed, he stepped into the title role one fateful night in September, 1989, when Daniel Day-Lewis had a breakdown and left the stage.

Northam looks back on the traumatic evening as "ancient history", which it probably is compared to wooing — and stalking — Bullock in *The Net*. "I could never have imagined that I would be performing opposite these icons, these movie stars, who are all totally different; it all came as a total surprise, really."

Their presence has meant he has yet to bear the burden for the films' variable commercial fates. "I wouldn't be responsible in the public eye, because I'm not Sharon or Mira or Gwyneth. But of course you put a lot of time and effort into doing what you do, and you want it to work, and you would much rather be associated with things which are happy successes."

If advance word is any gauge, both *The Winslow Boy* and *An Ideal Husband* are set to be exactly that, which looks to be especially pleasing vis-à-vis the latter film insofar as Northam came late to the cast as a last-minute replacement for Gabriel Byrne. "I got back on a plane from Los Angeles, and a day later I was in a readthrough," the actor says of his role as Sir Robert Chiltern, the ideal husband of Wilde's title. "I went from playing an escaped conman in *Happy Texas* to a politician with a dodgy past."

Still, it is hardly required etiquette that has Northam enthusing about his current play — "What has been so brilliant is the way Peter Gill does things and demands things of his actors" — even as he dismisses any sense of noblesse oblige about a performer appearing for a fraction of his usual fee. "People talk about you earning £250 a week like Nicole Kidman as if it's a badge of honour, and that makes me fed up because for most people in the business, that is a good wage and that's all you get.

"I'm not doing this to wear clothes of penitence and go 'Oh, I have to be a masochist for a while'. I'm doing it because it's not often that you're involved in the creation of something, as I was with this seven years ago [in workshop]."

In any case, Northam has hardly gone Hollywood: he continues to live, for example, in North London. "I remember feeling at various times annoyed at the assumption that one was deeply ambitious. What you hope for is to play the parts you want to play, to be a part of the industry that you wanted to be a part of. I'm ambitious to be a better actor."

● Certain Young Men *opens tomorrow night at the Almeida, London N1 (0171-359 4404).* An Ideal Husband *is released in Britain on April 16*

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available classical recordings, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

VERDI'S REQUIEM
Reviewed by Humphrey Burton

FOR every great performer (and for every recording engineer, one might add, since the work's dynamic range is exceptional) the Verdi Requiem is an Everest waiting to be climbed. Even more universal in its appeal than the Missa Solemnis or the Requiems of Brahms and Berlioz, Verdi's 90-minute masterpiece is the grandest religious composition of the 19th century.

Completed in 1874, it was the agnostic Verdi's outpouring of deep-felt grief following the death of Italy's most beloved poet, Manzoni.

Each of the four soloists has several long solos which are every bit as intense and demanding as an operatic aria, although Verdi insisted that "one mustn't sing this Mass in the way one sings an opera — therefore phrasing and dynamics that may be fine in the theatre won't please me at all". A quartet of superb artists is nevertheless essential, but they must leave operatic sobs and can belto high notes behind them, particularly when they combine in a taxing but expressive variety of duets, trios and quartets.

The Requiem also demands a chorus of great strength and flexibility, an orchestra of red-blooded virtuosi and a conductor of spirituality and dynamism.

Toscanini conducted the Requiem at Verdi's funeral in 1901 and made a recording 50 years later that, despite its boxy sound, still represents the authentic tradition. Conducting giants of every generation since the war have recorded it; Fricsay made a brilliant version in Berlin in 1953 (mono but single, mid-priced CD from Deutsche Grammophon); Giulini's 1964 interpretation for EMI (full price and full-blooded) remains one of the best, if you can take Schwarzkopf's breathy delivery, and Barbirolli, recording five years later, has the superb Jon Vickers among his soloists, and the tremendous Philharmonia Chorus.

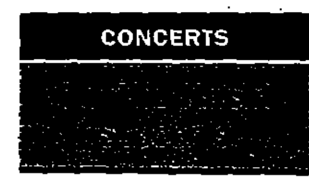
Solti's 1967 version, made in Vienna, is wonderfully engineered by Decca but a slightly languid Joan Sutherland lowers the tension. Four modern, digital recordings all have strong selling points. Muti is at La Scala: Abbado at the Vienna State Opera. Two English conductors also work with powerful international casts: Colin Davis — in Munich — for RCA and John Eliot Gardiner, employing period instruments, for Philips. If you won't be happy with anything less than original digital then go for the Davis (remember his compelling Proms performance in 1997?). But my final choice is vintage **Leonard Bernstein** on **Sony Classical** (SM2K 47639, two CDs, £17.99): the soloists include Domingo plus the LSO and LSO Chorus, remastered from a vivid 1970 performance taped at the Albert Hall. Bernstein has the soul, the heart and the dramatic energy: he inspires an electrifying experience.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (11am): Bernstein's West Side Story

Poet celebrated on wings of song

CONCERTS



Despite its punning title, this concert in Smith Square was a serious event: a celebration of the 250th birthday of one of the greatest figures of German culture. Few writers have had a more profound influence on music than Goethe, and since it is through music that he is best known to non-German speakers it made perfect sense for Matthew Best and his Corydon Singers and Orchestra to commemorate him this way.

Or did it? Something was surely wrong when such a fascinating programme could still leave the listener none the wiser about Goethe himself. His texts became just the thread connecting this series of masterpieces and rarities by his composer contemporaries. No exploration of his musical appeal was attempted. Given the vast body of Lieder and operas he inspired, the choral works featured here were hardly put into context.

Purely on a performance level, though, this was an evening full of excitement. The Corydon forces have made German Romantic music a speciality, but they seemed to surprise both themselves and the audience with the power of Mendelssohn's neglected *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*. From the start of a substantial overture, this half-hour cantata is full of unfettered lyricism, but it is not all Mendelssohnian sweetness and light: the witches' sabbath at its centre has the orchestra shrieking and growling, and the pagans have nothing of the religious respectability that often creeps into Mendelssohn's choral music.

Best's account caught all of this freshness and vigour, making it clear why Berlioz, for one, thought the score "the finest thing Mendelssohn has done". The chorus was lively and the soloists strong. Timothy Robinson displayed a ringing tenor as the Druid, Michael George was solemn as the Priest and Jean Rigby had a fine presence as the Old Woman.

To most music lovers, *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage* also implies Mendelssohn, but here we were treated to Beethoven's seldom heard choral setting of the Goethe poems. Notable for its vivid pictorialism and occasional anticipations of the Ninth Symphony, the score inspired alert, upfront singing from the choir. They had warmth, too, in Schumann's *Requiem für Mignon*, where the most ravishing music is reserved for a quartet of women, sung with distinction by members of the choir.

Two well-known works completed the programme. The orchestra revelled in Beethoven's *Egmont* overture, moving from a soft-grained opening to a blazing close, and Brahms's Alto Rhapsody found Jean Rigby on glowing form.

JOHN ALLISON

Time to take stock

The diagnosis of Mahler's serious heart condition in 1907 immediately preceded the Ninth Symphony of 1908-09. While it is true that there is a certain amount of mythology surrounding the composer's last works, it is also undeniable that thoughts of death loom large in the Ninth.

And it is perhaps not unduly unfanciful to detect in Bernard Haitink's account of the symphony with the London Philharmonic on Saturday an increased sense of urgency. Whether his recent heart surgery has anything to do with this is a delicate question, but the parallel at least deserves mention.

What was striking about the interpretation was its raw energy, a lacerating quality that exposed bone and sinew. Where one normally associates Haitink with control, moderation and a certain dourness, there was no mistaking the fierceness with which he ripped into the angry outbursts of the first movement. To some extent the unflattering acoustics of the Festival Hall exaggerated the harsh orchestral sound, and caused unblended timbres at the beginning to seem even more startling than probably intended.

Yet it was fair preparation for the starkness of what was to follow: a reading in which the shadows that fall across the tranquil resignation of the main material seemed darker than ever. Given that the middle movements are both laden with more or less grotesque irony, it was a reasonable strategy of Haitink's to differentiate clearly between them.

The Landler second movement, marked "somewhat clumsy and very coarse", with peasant dancing that should sound "ponderous" or "heavy-footed", according to the score, was indeed delivered with a very deliberate rhythmic tread. Done this way, the trills on woodwind, and especially horns, had an unsettlingly leering quality.

The Rondo Burleske third movement, on the other hand, was a whirlwind of hyperactivity, seething with energy and dispatched with virtuosity. All this leads, of course, to the sublimely valedictory hymn of the great Adagio finale. For all that the earlier movements signalled a new approach, Haitink is not a man to revel in sentimentality. True to his nature, it was not a finale of overt emotionalism, but a noble farewell, not without passion, yet sober and restrained.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Poulenc in his moods

Yan-Pascal Tortelier and his colleagues in the BBC Philharmonic must have had misgivings about devoting a whole programme to Poulenc. Apart from the question as to whether the music could sustain that kind of scrutiny, there was more than a possibility that the public would not find it very attractive, Poulenc centenary or not. In fact, enterprise was rewarded by a well-filled Bridgewater Hall and an audience that was clearly very happy with what it heard.

The risk was all the greater for the expense of a concert involving Martin Roscoe and Peter Donohoe in the Concerto for Two Pianos, Lynne Dawson as soloist in the *Stabat Mater* and not only the Leeds Festival Chorus but also the BBC Singers, who had a tricky task to perform in the unaccompanied six-part cantata *Un soir de neige*. But the ideal Poulenc programme, covering his development from the boyish *Les Biches* to the most inspired of the religious works of his maturity, requires that kind of investment.

It certainly could not omit the Concerto for Two Pianos, which is the ultimate example of the risks Poulenc could take — in ignoring all the rules of construction and discarding all discretion about using other composers' material — without sacrificing either coherence or individuality. It was brilliantly characterised here by a pair of soloists perfectly aligned with each other and with an orchestra sensitive to the poetry in the score as well as its fairground vulgarity.

The transition between "the hooligan", as one of Poulenc's friends called him, to "the monk", as the same friend called him, was made by the a cappella setting of wartime Eluard verse in *Un soir de neige* — a bleak demonstration of how serious-minded the composer could be.

Tortelier was also in a serious frame of mind. If his treatment of the suite from *Les Biches* was not quite the uninhibited celebration one might have hoped for, his interpretation of the *Stabat Mater* was entirely appropriate to the stature of that work and the chastity of its style. Of course, we are talking Poulenc, which means that chastity is a relative rather than absolute value: the long-delayed first entry of the solo soprano voice is sheer voluptuousness and, happily, neither the radiant Dawson nor the conductor was so severe as to attempt to conceal the fact.

GERALD LARNER

The man who loved women

VISUAL ART: Ingres could paint men but they were never his real inspiration, as **Richard Cork** discovers at the National Gallery

No sooner has late Monet settled into the Royal Academy than another, equally rewarding French painter arrives at the National Gallery. But these two magnificent shows could hardly offer a greater contrast. No people can be discerned in Monet's infatuated images of his garden, whereas Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres was a supreme painter of portraits. With lofty disdain, he pretended that history painting was his true calling. But Ingres is always at his finest when faced with a sitter, so the National Gallery is right to concentrate on portraiture and leave his pompous, often absurd allegories alone.

Just how overblown they can be is suggested by the first exhibit to confront us: a towering and marmoreal effigy of Napoleon I on his Imperial Throne. Executed by the young Ingres as a precocious showpiece in 1806, it presents the newly laurelled Emperor as a blanched, implacable despot. Resting his gold-encrusted foot on a velvet cushion, itself lying on a carpet emblazoned with the imperial eagle, Napoleon displays his fearsome authority. Clasping the sceptre of Charles V like a vicious spear, he allows Charlemagne's hand of justice to rest against his left thigh. Posed frontally, with a rigid hauteur that reflects Napoleon's appetite for unchallenged power, this severe apparition seems as remote from the modern world as a medieval icon.

Mercifully, though, the glacial Emperor remains an exception among Ingres' portraits. He was equally capable, only a year earlier, of making Madame Rivière into one of his most sensual images. With youthful audacity, Ingres turns his sitter into a sequence of swooping, whirling undulations. Treating the oval canvas as a flat surface, he allows limbs and draperies to flow across it with virtuoso elan. The ringleted Mme Rivière somehow maintains an imperturbable poise, while all around her extravagant linear inventions leap, coil and tumble. The veil surging from her head, no less than the embroidered shawl twisting in fantastic convolutions around her elongated arm, have an almost orgiastic abandon.

For all its bravura, the Rivière portrait was received with disapproval in Paris. Jacques-Louis David, Ingres' coolly Neo-Classical master, would never have allowed himself to indulge in such an unbridled display. For the moment, Ingres had to remain content with building a localised reputation in Rome. Here he was able to study his idolised Raphael at will, dreaming already of the grandiose apotheoses he would execute later in life. But he also had the good sense to embark on a portrait as superlative as the half-length of François-Marius Granet, a landscape painter and close friend.

If anyone had doubted Ingres' ability to respond to men with the fervour he bestowed on women, the Granet portrait settled the question. Dressed in a rich brown cloak, which gives the design its pyramidal firmness, the young man clasps his sketchbook against a backdrop of the Quirinale. The buildings are painted with an eye for flattened, cubic simplification that anticipates views of hilltop Provençal villages by Cézanne, who knew the Granet portrait well in his local museum at Aix. But Ingres counters this structural austerity by giving his handsome sitter nervous, sidelong-glancing eyes and wind-tousled hair. Tense with unattained, youthful ambition, Granet is pitched against a thunderous sky that reinforces his troubled mood. For all its debt to Classicism, this complex image shows how Romantic unrest was waiting to burst out of the ordered framework.

> 'Even his slightest portrait has a sense of tension'

Ingres never permitted his need for control to be overpowered by an onrush of unchecked feeling. But the turbulence beneath the surface rigour cannot be doubted, lending even his slightest portrait a powerful sense of tension. The pencil drawings he made in such profusion, largely to support himself after the collapse of his Napoleonic supporters in Rome, possess a palpable intensity. Adept at summarising his mainly British clients with consummate skill, he rose above mere flattery and proved that an effortless command of line lies at the very centre of his art. Whether drawing an elegant, intertwined family group, a discerning old lady or a small boy solemnly marooned on an ornate armchair, Ingres deploys his draughtsmanship with miraculous suppleness.

When he so wished, Ingres could embark on a painting with unerring speed and looseness. But once he had completed its early stages, with a dash worthy of Manet, all that swiftness gave way to infinite, painstaking elaboration. Because the pigment in his portrait of the Baron de Norvins has become worn, we can detect some of the changes Ingres introduced as the picture proceeded. The outcome, however, is the very opposite of laboured. Contrasted with a shimmering wall-cover and curtain of near-Venetian sensuousness, the Director of the Police cuts a sober, monochromatic figure. Although his white shirt threatens to spurt out from his lapel, its unexpected frothiness is contained within the severity of a jet-black coat. This is a man professionally accustomed to suspicion, and his stiff body refuses to lean back against the damask-draped chair where he sits with such vigilance.

As Ingres grew older, and found himself plied with commissions from wealthy society ladies in Paris, he allowed the reins more licence. Steadfastly monogamous in his own marriage, he nevertheless gave himself up to erotic indulgence in the realm of painting. When confronted by the heady languor of Madame de Senonnes in 1814, he revealed the extent of his willingness to be seduced. Viewed slightly from above, so that her breasts are shown to ample advantage, the hothouse creature relaxes on sumptuous, gleaming fabrics. The sitter looks up, her unmarked oval face calm above the spume of a triple-layered lace collar. Pale satin eruptions break out, at provocative intervals, along the surface of her wine-red velvet dress. No fewer than 13 rings can be counted on her fleshy fingers, and Ingres is bold enough to sign his name on a calling card stuffed into the edge of the mirror behind her.

This expanse of glass, the first to appear in an Ingres portrait, reflects the back of Mme de Senonnes' head. Shadowy and tantalising, it introduces an element of mystery after the brazen allure displayed by the woman in front of the mirror. Ingres deepens the enigma by making the rest of the glass surprisingly dark, and allowing it to spread over a large area of the painting's unfathomable upper section.

The great female portraits that crown Ingres' later career give glass a still more mesmerising role. The Vicomtesse d'Haussonville, far more alert and appraising than the indolent Mme de Senonnes, leans back against a mantelpiece surmounted by a grand mirror. With one distended figure propping up her chin, echoing a pose adopted by the Greek muse Polyhymnia, she gazes through crescent-shaped eyes in an abstracted manner. Her luxurious accoutrements do not seem to satisfy the young woman, who would later publish several historical romances. She seems a little restless, as if dissatisfied with her leisurely existence. And the prominent reflection of her head and shoulders stresses the young woman's solitude, enveloping her with the unknowable emptiness of the dark glass.

> 'The hothouse creature relaxes on sumptuous fabric'

The mirror image is deployed most sombrely of all in the grand final version of Madame Moitessier's two portraits. An earlier, redoubtable three-quarter length of this fashionable hostess shows her standing, arrayed in black and toying with a rope of pearls against a flat, damask-covered wall. She is expressionless, and her detachment is accentuated by the garland of lush roses dangling from her sculpted hair. They give her the aura of a remote goddess, accustomed to receiving adoration without betraying a scintilla of excitement.

The same curious blend of antiquity and modernity can be found in the later Moitessier portrait. The opposition between them, however, is now heightened. Seated, she allows a flower-spattered Second Empire dress to billow across the lower half of the painting. She appears to float on this sea of petals, and Matisse would have savoured Ingres' willingness to give these opulent patterns such a strong pictorial presence. Once again, Moitessier is removed from her nouveau riche context and given an antique gravity. The wide mirror behind confirms this dimension, by presenting her in shadowy profile as a Sphinx-like enigma. This time, though, the reflected image seems to be turning into stone. Her stillness is close to death, mocking the woman's finery and bejewelled satisfaction even as Ingres bestows immortality upon her.

● Portraits by Ingres *at the National Gallery (0171-839 3321) until April 25*

FRICK COLLECTION, NEW YORK

Dark glasses: in his great portrait of Vicomtesse d'Haussonville, Ingres once again allows a mirror to play a mesmerising role, emphasising her solitude

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

■ DECADENCE is a queasy concept; easier to sense than it is to define. It glistens, alluring yet repulsive, like the gloss of bright colours on decaying meat. Decadence is the Roman Emperor Commodus; ravaging then slaying virgins. It is Evelyn Waugh's tortoise with a diamond-encrusted shell. It is cruelty and high camp, opulence and consumption. "It is the rottenness from which all life springs," said Germaine Greer.

But most of all decadence is defined by its era, which is why the Crafts Council has chosen this cusp of the century to mount a show which explores decadence over the past decade. The sumptuous display of jewellery and textiles, sculpture and ceramics, glass and furniture, tantalises. The rich mix of media and ideas fascinates. It is hard for the eye to settle at first.

In the corner of a chamber, draped in dark velvet, a polished black Icarus spirals to his doom. His wings, quilled with mirrors, catch myriad glancing reflections of light. This is **Andrew Logan**'s interpretation of the theme: a glitzy glory before the moment of death. Other works are more sinister. Seen from a distance, **Andy Frazell**'s wall clock may look like a nursery ornament. But examine it more closely and you see a slaughterhouse scene.

Each exhibit deserves such fastidious inspection. A cornucopia, woven from ivy and leaves and moss, beaded with berries and old-man's beard, is not a symbol of bountiful nature. Discarded Fanta cans and crumpled crisp packets overspill the lip. And inside the ceramic rim, rippled like fungus, a scaly tentacle lurks.

Decadent? Andrew Logan's *Icarus* at the Crafts Council

Texture and pattern, design and detail, are the essence of this show, whether seen in the minimalist elegance of a **John Makepeace** cabinet, or the gilded decorations of a harpsichord. This show unfurls and explores the desires of a decade, and questions whether they really are decadent any more.

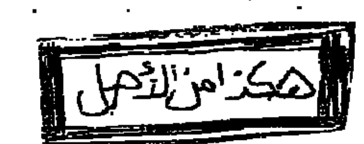
Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 (0171-278 7700) until March 14

■ I BUMPED into the artist **Peter Blake** at the Royal Academy's Monet show. Among all the admirers of this most popular Impressionist, Blake's was an isolated voice of dissent. He didn't like the paintings, he declared, which seemed all the odder at the time because near by was a photograph of the ageing Monet, and the similarities in appearance between the two artists were striking. But the clue to their differences lay in their beards. Where Monet's was flowing, Blake's was tightly clipped. And his artistic style has the same taut precision.

Those disheartened by the stretching queues for the Royal Academy might enjoy popping round the corner to see Blake's prints. Here are jokey series of tattooed ladies, brunettes and blondes in bright bikinis. "I wonder where this thing leads to?" cries Robin to Batman, as they slide down the lumpen curve of a thigh. Elvis Presley nestles against a clavicle. Minutely detailed woodcuts examine the freaks in the circus sideshow, photomontages create bewildering theatres in a Regency room. But more usually Blake seems to be caught in the rainbowed realm of the Sixties and Seventies. Perhaps his work will come back into fashion again in this retro-obsessed world.

Peter Gwyther, 29 Bruton St, London W1 (0171-495 4747) until Feb 27

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON



■ **LISTINGS**

Giselle in Edinburgh

ARTS

■ **POP**

UNKLE let the side down

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

THE STARVING BRIDES: HUB Theatre's multi-media piece conjuring up the seaside shows of the 1930s where (true story) a young woman fasted in a glass case.
Lyric Studio (0181-741 8701/2311). Tonight-Sat, 8pm.

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES: Eve Ensler performs in her own unsurprisingly frank play — an award-winning hit off Broadway.
King's Head (0171-226 1916). Ⓢ Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

INTERNATIONAL PIANO SERIES: The popular pianist Christina Ortiz gives an intriguing recital comprising works by her Brazilian compatriots Frutuoso Viana and Lorenzo Fernandez as well as French and Scandinavian pieces by Poulenc, Grieg and Stenhammar.
Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

The Royal College of Music celebrates Mozart

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION: The Royal College of Music pays homage to Mozart with a concert featuring rarities by Pergolesi and Dittersdorf followed by a concert aria by Mozart and his final great symphony, the Jupiter. Ian Page conducts the Classical Ensemble with the soprano Mary Plazas as soloist.
Britten Theatre (0171-589 3643). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: *Two Pianos, Four Hands*, is an enjoyable show performed by Ted Dykstra and Richard Greenblatt, recalling their childhood years of slog at the keyboard. Jeremy Sams directs the British premiere of this Canadian hit.
Repertory Theatre (0121-236 4455). Opens tonight, 7.30pm.

EDINBURGH: Christopher Gable's acclaimed interpretation for Northern Ballet Theatre of the classic Romantic tale Giselle arrives in the Scottish capital for a week-long run.
Festival Theatre (0131-529 6000). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

NOTTINGHAM: Scottish Ballet in the meantime makes a week-long excursion to England with Frederick Ashton's high-spirited La fille mal gardée. With Lorna Scott dancing the role of Lise on the first night.
Theatre Royal (0115 989-5555). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

■ *House full, returns only* Ⓢ *Some seats available* □ *Seats at all prices*

□ **BRIEF CANDLE:** Denis Quilley plays various European celebrities who fell for the charms of young Marie Bash- kirtseff (Celia White) in the 1880s. Stella Quilley directs.
New End (0171-794 0022). Ⓢ

□ **THE COUNTRY WIFE:** Martin Parr plays the randy Horner pursuing Victoria Pembroke in the title role. A Present Moment production of Wycherley's lustful comedy.
Bridewell (0171-936 3456).

Ⓢ **LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS:** Ewan McGregor in the title role of a revival of David Halliwell's play about art-student failure and fascism.
Comedy (0171-369 1731).

□ **OKLAHOMA!:** National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in the transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein.
Lyceum (0171-416 6099).

Ⓢ **RICHARD III:** Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC production; transfer from Stratford.
Savoy (0171-836 8888). Ⓢ

□ **THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE:** Dramatised reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. Timed to coincide with this month's publication of the findings. Profoundly relevant.
Tricycle Theatre (0171-328 1000). Ⓢ

□ **LORD OF THE FLIES:** William Golding's vivid tale of terror and death on paradise island, adapted by Nigel Williams.
Lyric, W6 (0181-741 8701). Ⓢ

□ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES:** Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-Nazi Poland.
Queens (0171-494 5041).

■ **VASSA:** Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season.
Albery (0171-369 1730).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

HILARY AND JACKIE (15): Anand Tucker's controversial, misguided biopic about the late Jacqueline du Pré ostensibly celebrates the cellist's genius. But scratch it and you discover a recklessly selfish schemer who preyed on her family like a vampire.

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12): Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman star as witches in a gothic soap about sisters with fatal attraction. Several seat-clutching special effects but the parable about girl power and the right to be abnormal is too sweet to digest.

BULWORTH (18): Warren Beattys disillusioned senator hires a hitman to kill him and suddenly discovers a taste for telling ugly home truths. A shameless ego trip for Beatty, but a wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity.

CLASS TRIP (15): Quirky French thriller about a school trip that is haunted by the waking nightmares of a young boy, scarred by his past and fearful of the future. Claude Miller directs this award- winning piece.

54 (15): Puny fairytale about a young beefcake (Ryan Phillippe) who finds celebrity and sex in Manhattans most famous 1970s disco. Mike Myers salvages some debauched comedy as club owner, Steve Rubell.

THE POLYGRAPH (ICA): The inconclusive results of a lie detector test turn the life of a murder suspect and struggling student, Patrick Goyette, into a hell of nightmare possibilities. Stylish but impenetrable mystery from Robert Lepage.

CURRENT

MEET JOE BLACK (12): Brad Pitt's comic, charming Joe Black, aka Death, bribes Anthony Hopkins's media tycoon to introduce him to the joys of life. Director Martin Brest tries to give l credibility to both characters, but ends up with an uneven melodrama. With Claire Forlani.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18): Christina Ricci plays a trashy 16-year-old who stitches up her gay step-brother by stealing his boyfriend. A blistering comedy on political correctness.

LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Herman's wonderful version of Jim Cartwright's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious covers of torch song divas. With Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent

MARILYN KINGWILL

A supine Vincent Bruel of the juggling duo Vis A Vis achieves the unlikely task of eliciting love, pathos and even melancholy from the movement of some white balls

Broken hearts on the ball

THEATRE

Of all the theatrical arts, perhaps the one that marries least naturally with matters of the heart is that which involves the propulsion of a set of balls or clubs.

There are very few for whom juggling would be the medium of choice for the portrayal of human tragedy, dependent as it is on such factors as control and predictability. Lionel About and Vincent Bruel, aka Vis A Vis, are among that few. Such is their dexterity that their *Visa Pour L'Amour* elicits love, pathos and even melancholy from the movement of a few sets of white balls. Of course, they are greatly assisted in their task by their talents in the fields of dance and mime, but when the music stops, this is essentially the tale of the love affair between two men and a couple of buckets of plastic spheres.

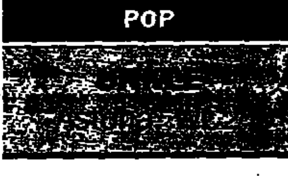
Dressed in the timeless clown costume of the City banker, Bruel and About locate themselves in a kind of artificial play area; a synthetic garden by the sea in which they tiff over toy watering cans, make paper boats and grow peculiar ball-bearing plants, the fruits of which are plucked and then thrown around.

Their relationship is the kind of fierce, competitive love usually seen between pairs of 12-year-old boys, but here carried over into adulthood. Juggling is the symbol of their bond: two bodies united by a common purpose; they juggle when they are happy, when they make up after a row, and when they are trying to prove themselves. Quite where one draws the line between actual juggling and just general object manipulation it is hard to tell; much of what takes place involves no throwing or catching and closely resembles the kind of gymnastic activity usually undertaken by adolescent Romanian girls.

Indeed, the appeal of *Visa Pour L'Amour* lies quite strongly not in what is actually being done on stage, but the context in which it is being performed. Had some of the movement sequences been identically performed by a pair of girls in meaningful leotards, as opposed to men in suits and spectacles, they could have been classified as expressionist dance. Ball-balancing tricks which could easily appear as entertainment at a corporate party here take on a curious poignancy when conducted by a sad but beautiful man, dressed only in a towel. While there are comic interludes, the final image is one of loneliness and desolation. Not absolutely mesmerising, perhaps, but a brave and enriching experiment in the possibilities of physical performance.

HETTIE JUDAH

Napoleon goes solo



POP

For the capacity crowd crammed into a stifling Astoria, this was not only the hottest ticket in town, but the first must-see show of 1999. The superhip DJ-driven outfit UNKLE made its live London debut on the final date of *NME*'s Premier tour with a lot to live up to. In the end, however, the expectation all but ruined the evening.

First to suffer was the trio of support acts. It scarcely seemed to matter to much of the audience how Llama Farmers, Delakota or Idlewild played. A rapidly improving Idlewild should have kick-started the show, but failed to stir more than the front few rows. Then, admittedly plagued by sound problems, a lacklustre Delakota gave fans few reasons to cheer. Only a closing *C'mon Cincinnati* came close to capturing the stoned, easy groove of its album template.

The brainchild of James Lavelle, the founder of trip hop record label Mo'Wax, UNKLE was conceived as a supergroup of sorts. Last year's debut album, *Psyence Fiction*, featured Richard Ashcroft, Thom Yorke, Beastie Boy Mike D and Metallica's Jason Newsted. None, however, had turned up to the show.

Instead of pop stars, what the audience got was Lavelle, flanked by two members of British DJ crew the Scratch Perverts, standing behind six record decks laid side by side on a table. To be fair, the Scratch Perverts were a joy to watch. Both award-winning hip hop DJs, their speedy turntable skills transformed the task of scratching a needle on a record into an art form.

With sections of each song pressed on to different dubplates, the idea was to remix *Psyence Fiction* live on stage. For the most part, however, the effect was like listening to the album at home. The only excitement came courtesy of singer Ian Brown, who slouched on stage to inject the show with some much-needed star quality. Adding vocals to the instrumental album track *Unreal*, he gave the crowd a taste of how good UNKLE could have been, had Lavelle persuaded a few more of his mates to turn up.

LISA VERRICO

Uplift for the spirits

JAZZ

Joy is not a word automatically associated with Marcus Roberts, so the arrival of an album called *The Joy of Joplin* arouses a certain trepidation. Ever since he signed up with the Wynton Marsalis band, the blind American pianist has tended to promote jazz as a form of moral uplift.

Sometimes the results have been predictably dour: titles such as *The Truth is Spoken Here* tell you all you need to know about his self-imposed mission to raise the public's consciousness. But even though his solo disc *Alone With Three Giants* had its moments of portentousness, it also testified to his burgeoning technique and his determination to find a path through the music of Ellington, Morton and Monk.

One recent Sony Classical release offered a bizarre attempt to graft bop improvisation on to *Rhapsody In Blue*, cheekily implying that George Gershwin would have been a better musician if he had hung out with Roberts and his friends.

The Joplin tribute is more satisfying. The composer himself would probably have been horrified, since Roberts's trio wanders far from the notes on the page. Yet as an exercise in blending jazz figures onto ragtime foundations it is intriguing.

Roberts reprised *The Entertainer* at the South Bank, the drummer Jason Marsalis (yet another member of the clan) setting up a shuffling New Orleans march rhythm before the leader made his heavily syncopated entry. After a dozen bars Roberts had thoroughly disguised the beat; a sudden digression into a reggae pulse helped us to find our feet. In terms of pure rhythm, this was a startling display, even allowing for the repetitive use of drum and bass solos. Roland Guerin made a compelling foil to Marsalis's taut cymbal work, even adding a few excursions into olde-time slap-bass.

What was lacking was the sense of ease and *joie de vivre* that you hear in the work of a modern master such as Ralph Sutton. Then again, Roberts prefers denser harmonies, while he is equally capable of switching to versions of *I Let A Song Go Out Of My Heart* and other Ellington tunes which were uncannily close to the spare, brush-driven miniatures recorded by Thelonious Monk in the mid-Fifties. Roberts is a man of many voices.

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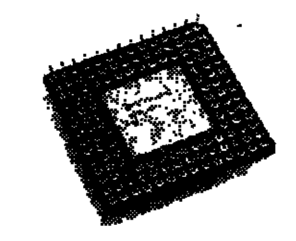

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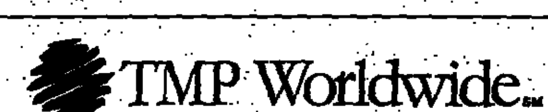

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LAW

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Marrying in a foreign country can be a tricky affair. Edward Fennell reports

By all means go to the Land where the Bong Tree Grows for your wedding. Just try to make sure that the marriage is not conducted by the Turkey Who Lives on the Hill.

According to Mick Jagger's team, his marriage to Jerry Hall was a turkey from day one because they did not have the right number of witnesses and there was a mix-up in the paperwork. So has Mick known all along that he was unwed? Or has this defence been unearthed more recently by a bright lawyer who has been investigating the events of the ceremony in Bali?

The basic position in the UK is that an overseas marriage will be valid if both persons had the capacity to marry and the local civil formalities were fully observed. Look beneath that generalisation, however, and the complexity of the issue soon becomes baffling. Even leading authorities such as Peter George of Charles Russell say this area of international private law can be "like playing *multidimensional* chess".

David Truex, of the Anglo-Australian practice David Truex and Company, describes the law as extremely complicated. "I'm writing a manual so that high street lawyers can understand the issues," he says. "Frankly, it is very difficult to do."

The upsurge in the number of complex marital disputes reflects increasingly international lives in which place of marriage, husbands and wives, domicile and assets may be scattered across the globe.

Mr Truex explained: "I've recently had a case in which an Australian woman married an Irish man and the couple lived initially in Ireland. The marriage broke up and the man went to live in France, the woman in Australia.

"He then petitioned for divorce in England and we had to persuade the English courts that this was not appropriate. So he then got a quickie divorce in Mexico and promptly married someone else, in New York. The authorities there recognised the Mexican divorce, but other countries would not."

Where does that leave the wife? Is she still married? If she decided that she was divorced and then remarried, would her second marriage be valid? Frankly, the answers may vary from country to country. For example, had she been domiciled in Ireland but had obtained a divorce in Australia, it would not be recognised in Ireland. But it would be recognised in England.

The result, says Katharine Shaw of the family law department at Radcliffes, is that when it comes to divorce, there is an increasing amount of "forum shopping" as lawyers and clients weigh up the pros and cons of where they will launch an action. Some jurisdictions might offer a quicker process, but their rulings might be unenforceable. And if their decisions are not recognised by other significant countries, that may queer the possibility of a future valid marriage.

So while the status of marriages used rarely to be questioned (except in cases of bigamy or non-consummation), there is likely to be a growing number of divorce and inheritance cases that hinge on the issue "Was the marriage valid in the *first place?*"

> Prenuptial contracts may offer a way forward

And it is not just globetrotting superstars who run up against these problems. Growing prosperity and a sense of adventure have produced a vogue for overseas marriage-cum-holiday packages. Getting married in a bikini on the beach is no longer a problem for specialist companies and big-name travel operators alike, which offer all-in deals complete with "ceremony, marriage and certificate". The operators arrange the details so that "when you arrive at your destination you will have nothing to worry about".

But what if your final destination is the divorce court? Being married by a Buddhist monk on the slopes of Everest may produce great snaps for the family album — but has the monk got the right authorisation from the local civil authorities?

Already a number of holiday companies have made their way to leading travel lawyers to check on how they stand. After all, if a marriage turned out to be invalid, could the disappointed holidaymakers come back for redress?

Peter Steward of Field Fisher Waterhouse is clear on his advice. "I advise travel companies to give the clients the full facts," he says. "They should suggest that their customers take legal advice first. And they should make it clear that they accept no responsibility for anything that might subsequently go wrong."

Start to investigate the small *print, even in England and* Wales, and the situation soon becomes complicated. For example, to be declared null, a marriage can be either void or voidable. It will be void, when the parties are within the prohibited degrees of relationship or if either of them is under 16 or if either was already married. It will be voidable if the marriages have not been consummated or if either partner *did not* validly consent to it or if, at the time of the marriage, *the respondent was pregnant* by some person other than the *petitioner.*

Then there is the matter of reading the banns in church and of the service being conducted by qualified officiants (rather than a work experience youth — as happened recently in one Anglican church).

For many people, the religious context may be more important than the civil. All Anglican clergymen ordained for a year can solemnise marriages but for Roman Catholics, Quakers, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims, different regulations apply.

Father John Nelson of Portsmouth's Catholic diocese, an expert in canonical law, says *that every effort is made to* work with the civil authorities. So although the Catholic Church does not recognise a register office wedding, a civil divorce would be required before they could marry again in a Catholic service.

Because of the potential for complexity, there is a growing belief in England and Wales that prenuptial contracts, which are not yet binding in *our courts, may offer a way for*ward. Mr George comments: "To avoid an argument, many people prefer to have a straightforward, enforceable contract." So if you decide to go for the turkey on the hill in the saffron robes, be sure to sign a prenuptial before getting the ring. And make sure your travel agent pre-books the divorce in Mexico.

ARTHUR ELGORT

Randy Gerber and Cindy Crawford, like thousands of couples, married in an exotic location

Skeleton argument that may harm civil justice

David Pannick QC

In March 1989, Lord Donaldson of Lymington, *then Master of the Rolls*, made a practice direction introducing a require*ment that counsel file a skeleton argument* before the hearing of a civil appeal. There is concern among practitioners that the most recent practice direction in this area, which comes fully into effect next Monday, will greatly reduce the value of these skeleton arguments and damage civil justice.

As the 1989 practice direction explained, a skeleton argument is a written summary which identifies the principal points and draws attention to the relevant legal authori*ties. Its main purpose is to assist the judge to* prepare for the hearing, thereby ensuring that the oral argument for the appeal can focus on the central issues in dispute between the parties. This reduces the time spent in court, and limits the costs for litigants and the legal system.

By advancing these objectives, the skeleton argument has been one of the most sig*nificant improvements in civ*il procedure in the past 50 years, and not just in the Court of Appeal. A similar requirement has been imposed in other civil courts.

The 1989 practice direction imposed a deadline for the filing of skeleton arguments of four weeks before a fixed hearing date. In 1990 this was reduced to 14 days. That remained the normal rule until *the recent practice direction is*sued by Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, *last November after "consultation with the* members of the Court of Appeal", as the direction records. *The new standard rule is* that the appellant must include a skeleton argument when filing the appeal bundle of documents, within 14 days of the appeal appearing in the list of forthcoming appeals. The respondent must then lodge a reply skeleton argument within 21 days of receipt of the appellant's skeleton argument. This will mean that there is an obligation to prepare and file skeleton arguments at an earlier stage of the appeal proceedings. The date by which an appellant must file a bundle of documents is typically many months before the hearing. In judicial review cases, the skeleton arguments will need to be filed about six months before the appeal is heard. The new practice direction adds that a supplemental or revised *skeleton argument may not be lodged with*out the court's permission, and such permis*sion will be granted only if there is good rea*son for doing so.

The requirement to file skeleton arguments early in the appeal proceedings is unfortunate. There will be four main disadvantages. First, because the work will be done so long before the appeal hearing that the skeleton arguments will decline in quality and fo*cus, and will not provide as much assistance* to the court as a skeleton argument filed close to the hearing date. No doubt the previous 14-day rule was based on Dr Johnson's principle that "when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully".

Secondly, in areas of the law (such as public law and employment law) where developments are rapid, the skeleton argument will often need amendment by the time of the *hearing if it is to address current legal princi*ples. Thirdly, lawyers will now need fully to *prepare the case twice, once for the skeleton* argument and again for the hearing months later. At present, that occurs only when counsel has to be instructed to obtain leave to appeal, and not where such leave has already been granted by the lower court or tribu*nal. Appellate litigation will* become more expensive for *clients.*

Fourthly, counsel previously knew when they had a duty to file a skeleton argument because it was based on the hearing date in their diary. The new rule focuses on the date notified to the solicitor for the case entering the list of forthcoming appeals. Counsel will now be dependent on *the solicitor giving them that* information. Delays in communication will *inevitably mean that skeleton arguments* will be prepared in even more of a rush than *they are at present.*

These detriments are not outweighed by any positive benefit from skeleton arguments being filed so much earlier. The judges are not going to read them until just before the hearing of the appeal. The duty to provide a skeleton argument at the early stage is unlikely to deter unmeritorious appeals. The requirement for sequential filing of skeleton arguments is an improvement on the previous procedure by making it more likely that the respondent's document will answer the one filed by the appellant. But that objective does not require the documents to be presented so long in advance of the hearing date.

*Mr Justice Cardozo of the United States Su*preme Court gave warning that changes to *civil procedure must not "multiply impedi*ments to justice without the warrant of clear *necessity*". The Court of Appeal should rethink its practice direction.

● *The author is a practising barrister and Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Legal DIARY

COULD Robin Cook sue *for breach of marital* secrets? Peter Carter-Ruck, the libel lawyer, thinks so. "There is a precedent for this," he says — a case in 1967 when the Duchess of Argyll obtained an injunction to stop the Duke, her former husband, and a newspaper, from disclosing marital confidences. The court held that marriage was a relationship of a confidential nature that gave rise to an obligation of confidence. *Mr Carter-Ruck adds:* "Mr Cook could arguably seek to obtain an injunc*tion to prevent* further publication of details of his marriage."

☐ The judges are paying their own tribute to Lord Denning for his 100th birthday (see page 43). Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, will this week take him a cut-glass bowl on behalf of the Court of Appeal judges. Lord Goff of Chieveley, until recently the senior law lord, was there on Saturday to give a special scroll on behalf of the Institute of International and Comparative *Law. Lord Denning, its president,* was a founding member.

☐ Bar noses have been put out of joint by the Chilean Government's choice of QC for General Pinochet: the Herbert Smith partner Lawrence Collins, who is one of the first solicitor QCs.

☐ The Law Society is desperate for a way out of the profession's negligence-insurance crisis. Last week the council debated whether to keep the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund or allow firms to obtain insurance on the open market.

Now it is to look at a new idea from the consultancy Aon Risk, which would give firms a choice of the open market or an insurance package devised by the society.

☐ *Simmons & Simmons is* having a tough year. After an exodus of several *high-profile partners, Alan Morris,* the accountant who was made managing partner in 1996, is leaving before the end of his three-year term, amid speculation that partners are losing confidence in the running of the firm. David Dickinson, managing partner of the banking and capital markets group, was one of only two who went for the job and was victorious. His first task? To stem the flow of partners and get them to stump up £7 million to fit out planned new offices.

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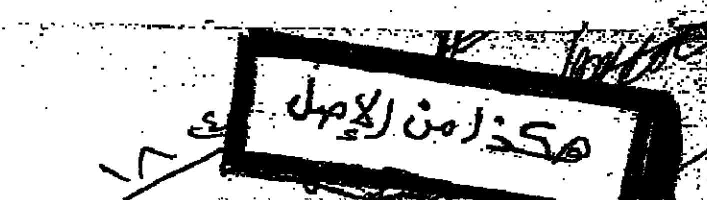


Playing by the rules

Why is the OFT tackling football's Premier League? Report by **Richard Prowse**

The Restrictive Practices Court is being asked to blow the whistle on the FA Premier League and to show a red card to its lucrative television deals.

In a case brought by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), the UK's competition law watchdog, the Premier League stands accused of operating as an illegal cartel. The alleged offence is the practice of the league's clubs collectively selling their television rights to BSkyB (40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*) and the BBC.

The case, which started on January 12, has been surrounded by much rhetoric and confusion. Unusually, we have seen Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, criticising a government office, the OFT, for its decision to pursue a case. Talk abounds in football circles of the collapse of the Premier League and critics say that the sport as we know it is under threat.

Of course, football is a highly emotive topic at the heart of Britain's culture. But we should all, Tony Banks included, step back and focus realistically on why the OFT has brought the case.

The issue is whether, and how, competition law should apply to sport and what the future holds. The case brought by the OFT is based on a straightforward application of competition rules. If we take a dispassionate view, it is difficult to find fault with the OFT's argument. English Premier League clubs are banding together in order to sell their product, the television rights to FA Carling Premiership football.

From a purely economic and legal stance, this eliminates any competition between them and means that they are able to use their collective muscle to negotiate price and limit the choice of matches screened. The result, potentially, is that the consumer pays more and sees less. If the televised football market was not restricted by the existence of a cartel, the argument is that clubs would then sell their rights individually and in competition with each other, resulting in lower prices and more matches on more channels. This is how markets operate in other industries and, in effect, the OFT is applying the same principles to football as it would to any other business activity.

If in any other industry a similar horizontal cartel were established, people would want to be assured that the OFT believed it to be operating for consumers' benefit. A cartel of petrol companies, for example, agreeing the selling price of a litre of fuel, would almost certainly be illegal, because it would keep prices artificially high.

"Football is a sport that happens to be a business rather than a business that happens to be a sport," Mr Banks says. This is a good soundbite, but it means nothing. The OFT is not examining the game of football, but rather the way in which it conducts its business, and it is right to do so. What Mr Banks should be concentrating on is not whether the OFT should have the right to examine the business of football, but whether the way football is run is in the interest of consumers and the game.

There is no reason a football club should not have its conduct and agreements scrutinised under the competition rules and this has long been recognised in Europe. The Bosman ruling on transfers, which means that players out of contract with their clubs are free to move without their clubs being able to demand a transfer fee, is now an established part of the game in England and the whole of Europe. Football generates billions of pounds a year and national competition authorities have a duty to keep under review an industry of this size.

In applying the rules, the OFT should, of course, recognise the special nature of football. It may well be necessary to apply the competition laws in the light of the fact that unrestricted business competition may give too much power to the media companies and large clubs and drive weaker rivals out of business. This would take from football the very thing that it thrives upon: teams, competition and a special place in our culture.

The court case cannot be considered in isolation from other recent events. BSkyB has played a clever game — its bid for Manchester United means that it has an insurance policy should this court case go the wrong way. It is difficult to see the Premier League losing this case and also BSkyB being prevented from completing the acquisition.

It is also worth noting that the fact a court case has been necessary to air the issues of broadcasting rights highlights the inadequacies of the present legal structure. In future, and with the introduction of the Competition Act in March 2000, it is likely that such problems will be addressed before contracts are signed under the new UK clearance regime.

● *The author, a partner at Eversheds, specialises in EU and competition law.*

FILM FOUR DISTRIBUTION

The film of Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch*: football is a topic at the heart of Britain's culture

Why the entente is not so cordiale

French lawyers are not happy about the tactics of English law firms, says **Adam Sage**

They are aggressive, arrogant and uncouth. These are some of the more pleasant things the French say about English lawyers. Anger has been growing over the rapid expansion of the Parisian offices of City law firms, culminating in a vitriolic article in the news magazine *Le Point* this month denouncing "English imperialism".

Gallic *avocats* complained about the way their British counterparts had headhunted top Parisian commercial lawyers, and sometimes teams of lawyers, with promises of earnings of more than £100,000 a year.

The controversy has arisen because City firms are attempting to strengthen their presence on the Continent, particularly in Paris and Frankfurt. Most have tried to expand through alliances with continental partners. Linklaters, for example, last year announced a federation with German, Belgian, Dutch and Swedish firms. Cameron McKenna is planning a similar move.

But such associations do not always run smoothly, especially when they run into Franco-British hostility. Last June, for instance, France's largest *cabinet*, Gide-Loyrette-Nouel, broke off a ten-year association with Allen & Overy. Then, last month, another French firm, de Pardieu, abandoned plans for an alliance with Allen & Overy. Lucie Maurel-Aubert, a lawyer at Gide, told *Le Point*: "They wanted to impose their own brand name and to take our markets. We wanted an association where we would complement each other."

> 'The English are aggressive and colonialist'

That was bad enough for Gide, which, with 350 lawyers and an annual turnover of Fr600 million (about £63 million), is a giant by French standards. But worse followed as five of its leading commercial lawyers left for Allen & Overy, another ten for Linklaters and one, last week, for Freshfields.

Other French firms also face what they deem to be unwarranted attacks of this sort. Olivier Pichot, a partner specialising in legal recruitment with the international headhunters Tasa Worldwide, claims: "The English have an approach that is aggressive and colonialist. They think they may lose out because Britain is not in the euro, so they are trying to buy up whole teams and structures in Paris in the hope of becoming operational here very quickly."

M Pichot says that City law firms have been promising to double the revenue of French lawyers earning between Fr500,000 and Fr700,000 a year. "But this approach is bound to fail," he says. "They have been going to the crème of Parisian lawyers and saying 'How much do you want? We are prepared to buy you.' They are often turned down because they do not realise that though the French may be ready to sell themselves, they do not want to lose their identity. The English have tried to go too fast, and they have made too many mistakes."

French lawyers say that their firms are smaller, their development stunted by the codified system that leaves less room for legal manoeuvre than under the common law tradition, and less cut-throat.

A senior partner in a Parisian firm, who asked not to be named, says: "The only thing that seems to matter to the English is money. The City firms are real economic war machines that hardly care about the law at all. Here, we see ourselves much more as a fraternity concerned with our profession."

The City, not unnaturally, views things differently, as Stephan Denyer, the regional managing partner for Europe at Allen & Overy, argues: "What we are seeking is long-term, measured development and we would be silly to do things in an unnecessarily aggressive way. We do not go around luring people in Paris or anywhere else, but it is a case that good lawyers are attracted to us because of our development."

The firm's Paris office, he explains, employs 37 people and has doubled in size over recent months, as has the Frankfurt bureau. Within four years, only half of Allen & Overy lawyers in its offices around the world will be British, compared with 70 per cent at present. "This," he adds, "is due to client demand."

Peter Kett, a senior partner at the Paris office of Slaughter & May, says: "I know that some French firms have criticised the London law firms in Paris for engaging in what they consider to be competitive practices, but I do not subscribe to this view. You cannot criticise the English firms for what they have done. It has all been legitimate. They have simply been good at promoting themselves."

Gilles August, the founder of August et Debouzy, one of the few Parisian firms to flourish in recent years, agrees. "The English are aggressive, but you cannot hold that against them," he says. "They have the right to do what they have done. The French must simply follow their example. They are entirely capable of doing so. That is the law of business. You adapt or you die."

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

The people's judge: Lord Denning celebrates his centenary

Brilliant, unpretentious and a judicial activist, Lord Denning is Britain's most treasured senior judge. By **Frances Gibb**

If judges had popularity ratings, Lord Denning would top the poll. He is the student's judge, the lawyer's judge and, above all, the people's judge. Litigants in person loved him, and he was a gift to the media. Whenever I rang him for a comment about a colleague he was happy to respond, and the rejoinder was always: "Say something nice about him, won't you?"

Last Saturday more than 170 lawyers and judges met at the University of Buckingham to say something nice about Lord Denning on his 100th birthday and pay tribute to his contribution to the law over 38 years as a judge, 20 of them as Master of the Rolls. Unfortunately, the guest of honour was too frail to attend.

> 'Denning protected the little man against the big battalions'

Mention Lord Denning's name and people think of his Hampshire burr and the style of his judgments — short, simple sentences of startling clarity. But his legacy to the law itself is, arguably, unrivalled. Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, says: "Many of his decisions were ahead of his day and only years later became accepted as representing the law."

In one dissenting judgment, he said that if a person gives negligent advice, he can be held liable to any person acting on that advice. Some 15 years later, the law lords followed him. In his many rulings in civil disputes, Lord Denning also helped to lay the foundations for what is now mainstream law — judicial review, allowing individuals to succeed in challenging abuses of power by authorities or big corporations. "He put the Court of Appeal's civil division on the map," Lord Woolf says. "Until his time, on the whole it was the great criminal cases that caught the public imagination. With him, for the first time, it was civil cases, because he was protecting the little man against the big battalions."

Lord Woolf, who appeared before Lord Denning as a young advocate, remembers his patience at a time when it was the norm for judges to be crusty and impatient. "When I was just starting out as a Treasury junior, I was a bit out of my depth in one difficult case and he guided me through." When Lord Woolf was promoted to the Court of Appeal, a big occasion for him and his family, he recalls Lord Denning being "extremely kind to my sons — they remember that more than anything else that day".

As for sitting with him as a fellow judge, Lord Donaldson of Lymington — who succeeded Lord Denning on his retirement in 1982 — recalls his brilliant mind and "total-recall memory. He could skim through the whole of the argument in his mind." But there were dangers, he added, sitting as the second judge with Lord Denning. "He might think about a case overnight before giving judgment, and then come to the conclusion that what he had decided was wrong."

A judicial activist, Lord Denning did not believe in judges leaving things to Parliament: they had to provide an instant remedy for the individual. If the law was unjust, then it had to be altered in order to accord with his notion of justice. Alternatively, the law would be interpreted to provide justice — what judges will increasingly do as the Human Rights Act starts to bite.

He himself cites the High Trees case in 1947, in which he ruled that a person should keep his word or bond; the many matrimonial cases that created the principle of the deserted wife's equity; and the cases correcting abuses of power such as that overruling the Board of Trade when it denied Laker Airways a licence.

On Saturday many other cases — from commercial and company law to family — were cited. Len Sealy, an emeritus professor from Cambridge, recalls the Mareva injunction — which enabled courts to freeze a defendant's assets when the plaintiff had not yet established his right to proceed against those assets — as one measure for which Lord Denning should be remembered.

Lord Denning does have his critics: he did make mistakes that the law lords subsequently reversed, and some of his views, particularly in later years, aroused controversy — for example, he was accused, to his distress, of casting a slur on the ability of black people to be jurors.

But he argued passionately that the common law of England regarded a person's colour or race as "irrelevant" in deciding his rights or duties. And despite deeply held Christian values, he liberalised the divorce laws, and treated cohabiting couples as married couples where possible. Likewise, his view of the breakdown of marriage was pragmatic: the divorce court, he said, should not penalise anyone.

As Professor Michael Freeman, of University College London, said on Saturday, Lord Denning is quintessentially English, with beliefs rooted in the Protestant work ethic and family. So it was fitting that he celebrated his birthday with friends and family in his native village of Whitchurch (he was born there, the son of a draper) with a peal of bells, a choir and the planting of an oak. Peter Post, who was his clerk and now manages his affairs, visits twice a week and they still enjoy fish and chips sent up on Friday by the local hotel, with chocolates and coffee to follow.

How will he be remembered? Sir John Balcombe, a retired Court of Appeal judge and one of the guests on Saturday, singles out Lord Denning's humanity: "He was a brilliant lawyer, though not everyone always agreed with him. And he was so nice to people in court ... the most unpompous man I have ever met." Lord Donaldson speaks of his making the law available to the small man. Lord Woolf, who inherited — literally — Lord Denning's appeal court robes and whose career has followed a similar path, points to his kindness: "People would leave court totally happy, even if he found against them. He will be remembered as the champion of the little man and as a great legal reformer who had a vision of the common law that reverberated throughout the world."

● *The papers from the symposium at the University of Buckingham, sponsored by Rowe & Maw, Butterworths and Ede & Ravenscroft, will be compiled in a special edition of the* Denning Law Journal, *with a foreword by Lord Goff of Chieveley. For further details contact Viv Forrester, Buckingham Law School, 012380 814080.*

Chancery Division — Law Report January 26 1999 — Chancery Division

Payments to patient are not for mother

In re the Estate of B (Deceased)

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker

[Judgment January 22]

Where the Court of Protection made monetary contributions on a patient's behalf to the provision of accommodation and to the running of a household, those payments could not properly be characterised as a contribution towards the "reasonable needs" of the patient's mother for the purposes of section 1(1)(e) of the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975, notwithstanding that the payments indirectly benefited the mother.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division on a summons issued under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court by PR. Further, his Lordship allowed an appeal by PR against an order of Master Bragge's granting leave to IB to commence proceedings out of time under the 1975 Act for reasonable provision to be made for her out of the estate of her deceased daughter, B.

Mr William Henderson for PR; Mr John Ross Martyn for IB.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said that B was born on April 10, 1979. Due to the negligence of the medical staff in attempting a forceps delivery, she suffered serve damage at birth, both to her brain and her spine.

B's father, PR, effectively left the scene when she was eight months old, however her mother, IB, continued to care for her devotedly. In due course an action was brought on behalf of B against the area health authority and in May 1986 a final award of damages was made in the sum of £250,000.

In July 1985, a bungalow was purchased for the joint occupation of B and IB.

B paid 75 per cent of the purchase price pursuant to a direction from the Court of Protection and IB paid the balance.

On B's death, her 75 per cent beneficial share in the property vested in her estate on a resulting trust and passed on her intestacy to IB and PR in equal shares.

On March 6, 1997 IB issued her application for leave to commence proceedings for reasonable financial provision under the 1975 Act, leave being granted by Master Bragge on February 10, 1998.

Section 1 of the 1975 Act contained provisions as to who could make an application under the Act. Section 1(1) listed the five categories of persons including

"(e) any person (not being a person included in the foregoing paragraphs of his subsection) who immediately before the death of the deceased was being maintained, wholly or partly, by the deceased".

To qualify as an applicant under section 1(1)(e), IB had to satisfy the court, inter alia, that (i) at the date of her death B was making a substantial contribution in money or money's worth towards the reasonable needs of IB and (ii) B had "assumed responsibility" for the maintenance of IB for the purposes of section 3(4) of the Act.

On the first question, his Lordship said that section 95(1) of the Mental Health Act 1983 conferred on the Court of Protection, with respect to the property and affairs of the patient, a power to secure the doing of all such things as appeared to be necessary or expedient for the maintenance or other benefit of the patient and the maintenance or other benefit of members of the patient's family.

It was common ground that in the instant case no direction was made by the Court of Protection pursuant to section 95(1) of the 1983 Act for payments to be made to IB otherwise than in her capacity as B's receiver; that is to say no direction was made for payments to be made to IB for her own maintenance or benefit.

All the payments made by the Court of Protection were made out of the fund representing the damages award and they were made for the maintenance and benefit of B.

However, there could be no doubt that a side-effect of the payments made by the Court of Protection for the maintenance and benefit of B was to the benefit of IB also.

After all, B's pre-eminent need was to be housed in suitable accommodation with her mother, so that her mother could care for her, and the meeting of that need naturally and inevitably meant that IB would be indirectly benefited both by the provision of joint accommodation and by B's regular contribution to the running of expenses of the joint household.

In his Lordship's judgment, however, common sense led ineluctably to the conclusion that IB was not dependent for the purposes of section 1(1)(e) of the 1975 Act.

In the first place the monetary contributions made by the Court of Protection on B's behalf to the provision of joint accommodation and to the running of the joint household, being made in the exercise of the Court of Protection's statutory power to provide for the maintenance of B could not properly be characterised as a contribution towards the reasonable needs of IB.

It was an indisputable fact that the "reasonable needs" in respect of which the payments were made were those not of IB but of B. The fact that they also had the effect of conferring some indirect and incidental personal benefit on IB could not serve to alter their character as to turn them into a contribution "towards the reasonable needs of [IB]".

In the second place, any doubt as to the correctness of that conclusion was dispelled when one brought into account the requirement of assumption of responsibility.

On the facts, it was impossible to infer that B, via the Court of Protection, assumed responsibility for the maintenance of IB for the purposes of section 3(4) of the 1975 Act.

Although the Court of Protection had a power under section 95(1) of the 1983 Act to make provision for the maintenance of IB it never exercised that power.

Even if it had done so, his Lordship doubted if the inference could have been drawn that by doing so it had assumed responsibility for IB's maintenance.

After all, having once exercised that power by making regular payments for the maintenance of IB, the Court of Protection could at any time thereafter have ceased to make such payments, with the consequence that IB could not have counted on the maintenance payments continuing.

Moreover, it was questionable whether the power to maintain a patient's family empowered the Court of Protection to assume responsibility for the maintenance of that person.

Since IB on the undisputed facts could not bring herself within section 1(1)(e) of the 1975 Act, the court had no jurisdiction to entertain a claim under section 2 of that Act. Accordingly, IB's application was bound to fail.

Solicitors: Law Hurst Taylor, Westcliff-on-Sea; Dutton & Hooke; Southend-on-Sea.

Circulating press cuttings went beyond fair dealing

Newspaper Licensing Agency Ltd v Marks and Spencer plc

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment January 19]

A daily programme of circulating and distributing cuttings of articles from newspapers went beyond reporting current events within the meaning of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 so as to give rise to the fair dealing defence afforded by section 30(2) of that Act.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division giving judgment for the Newspaper Licensing Agency Ltd in its claim that Marks and Spencer plc had infringed its copyright in typographical arrangement.

Mr Kevin Garnett, QC, for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC and Mr Mark Vanhegan for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the plaintiff was the owner of copyright in the typographical arrangement in a large number of national and regional newspapers.

It sought to establish that the defendant infringed such copyright by making copies of cuttings from those newspapers and distributing such copies to its executives.

The defendant contended, inter alia, that such conduct did not constitute an infringement of the plaintiff's copyright (i) because the copying was not of a substantial part of the copyright work and (ii) even if the copying was of a substantial part, because such copying constituted fair dealing for the purposes of reporting current events within the meaning of section 30(2) of the 1988 Act.

Infringement

Sections 1(c) and 8(i) of the 1988 Act provided that copyright subsisted in the typographical arrangements of published editions of a literary work or part of a literary work.

In the case of a newspaper made up of a number of different articles, each separate article was a literary work and the typographical arrangement of each separate article was accordingly a copyright work.

His Lordship referred to *Machinery Market Ltd v Sheen Publishing Ltd* ([1983] FSR 431) and held that a separate copyright subsisted in the typographical arrangement of each article copied, and that therefore the copies made by the cuttings were copies of substantial parts of the works in which the plaintiff was entitled to copyright.

Fair dealing

His Lordship set out a brief summary of the history of the fair dealing defence to infringement of copyright, and referred to *Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd* (*The Times* January 7, 1999).

Fair dealing was concerned with the genuineness of the intentions and motives of the use of the copyright material to report current events and the extent to which it was fair and reasonable in all the circumstances to make as extensive a use as was in fact made of the copyright material. The question was very much a question of degree and one of fact and impression.

The first hurdle to be surmounted was to establish that the dealing with the copyright work was part of an exercise of reporting current events.

The critical question was whether the defendant's daily programme of circulating and distributing cuttings fairly fell within the language of section 30(2).

The cuttings went far beyond reporting current events. The course followed by the defendant did not constitute fair dealing.

In copying the cuttings from the newspapers the defendant had infringed the copyright of the plaintiff in typographical arrangement and the plaintiff was entitled to relief.

Solicitors: Herbert Smith; Mr Robert Ivens.

Need for legislation on duress defence

Regina v Abdul-Hussain
Regina v Aboud
Regina v Hasan
Regina v Naji
Regina v Muhssin
Regina v Hoshan

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Rougier and Mr Justice Johnson

[Judgment December 17]

There was an urgent need for legislation for precision in the defence of necessity arising as duress by threat or circumstances.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by Mustafa Shakir Abdul-Hussain, Saheb Sherif Aboud, Hasan Saheb Abdul Hasan, Mohammed Chamekh Muhssin and Adnan Hoshan against convictions and prison sentences ranging from nine to five years imposed in November 1977 at the Central Criminal Court by Mr Justice Wright, after being found guilty of hijacking contrary to section 1(1) of the Aviation Security Act 1982.

The appeal by Maged Mehdy Naji was dismissed.

Mr Michael Mansfield, QC, for Abdul-Hussein; Mr Michel Massih for Aboud and Hasan; Mr Alper Riza, QC, for Naji; Mr Laurence Kershen, QC and Mr Timothy Horgan for Muhssin; Mr Alan Newman, QC and Mr Michael Turner for Hoshan; all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellants were all Shia Muslims originating from Southern Iraq and were fugitives from the Saddam Hussein regime.

They came to live in Sudan and made several attempts to travel to Europe, without success. In August 1996, the appellants' passports were removed and as they feared deportation to Iraq, where they were certain of savage punishment and execution, they and members of their families boarded a Sudanese Airbus bound for Jordan and hijacked it en route.

His Lordship, when asked to consider if the defence of duress should have been put before the jury at the appellants' trial, said that the defence of duress by threat or circumstances was available to all offences except murder, attempted murder and treason as cited in *R v Pommell* ([1995] 2 Cr App R 607) and the clearest authoritative guide to duress was found in *R v Martin* ((1989) 88 Cr App R 345).

As that defence had developed case by case, its scope was imprecise, thus the need for Parliament to provide otherwise.

Which course involves least risk of injustice?

Nikitenko v Leboeuf Lamb Greene & Macrae (a Firm) and Another

Before Mr Richard McCombe, QC

[Judgment December 16]

When considering an application for a mandatory order on an interlocutory basis, the overriding concern of the court was as to which course was likely to involve the least risk of injustice if it turned out to be wrong.

While the court should usually feel a high degree of assurance that the applicant would be able to establish his right at trial before making a mandatory order in his favour, making such an order at an interlocutory stage might be justified in the absence of that high degree of assurance where the risk of injustice if the injunction was refused sufficiently outweighed the risk of injustice if it was granted.

Mr Richard McCombe, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, so held allowing in part the application by motion of the plaintiff, Mr Oleg Nikitenko, for certain declarations as to his entitlement to documents in the hands of the first defendant, Leboeuf Lamb Greene & Macrae, a firm of solicitors, as agents jointly alternatively jointly and severally for the plaintiff and the second defendant, Mr Oleg Simonov, relating to the affairs of 18 companies ultimately owned by Mr Nikitenko and Mr Simonov, together with an order that the plaintiff be at liberty forthwith to inspect and take copies of those documents.

Mr Richard Millett for the plaintiff; Mr Clive Freedman for the first defendant; Mr Glen Davis for the second defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that since the summer of 1995 the plaintiff had been engaged in a joint venture, operated through a complex structure of companies in various jurisdictions worldwide, all of which were ultimately beneficially owned by the plaintiff and second defendant, with the second defendant involving the management of a fleet of factory trawlers operating in the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Far East, and the sale and marketing of fish products.

Within the plaintiff's evidence three particular groups of documents emerged as important.

The first concerned Alden, a company against which Mr Nikitenko had brought a winding-up petition in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands.

The second concerned proceedings in the Commercial Court between two companies called DNHS Ltd and DNHS Seafoods AS on the one hand and three of the companies now in issue from the Nikitenko/Simonov empire and Mr Nikitenko and Mr Simonov personally on the other, regarding a settlement agreement concluded in February 1998.

The plaintiff's primary contention appeared to be not that the first defendant held relevant papers in connection with the DNHS litigation, but that the DNHS litigation added to the urgency with which the plaintiff needed to see all the papers in dispute inter partes.

The third category of documents concerned a company called Falkland Investments Ltd, a Liberian company ultimately beneficially owned half by Mr Nikitenko and Mr Simonov, which was engaged in substantial litigation in Russia, Korea and Singapore, in respect of which Falkland had instructed Lawrence Graham, solicitors, to coordinate the litigation from London.

A deed of assignment dated July 1, 1998 purported to assign the fruits of that litigation to Albatross Agencies Ltd, a company controlled by Mr Simonov, and the documents sought were to establish whether Mr Nikitenko had grounds on which to challenge the purported assignment.

The main authority on the availability of mandatory orders on interlocutory motions was the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Zockoll Group Ltd v Mercury Communications Ltd* ([1998] FSR 354), in which Lord Justice Phillips cited approvingly the four-step test proposed by Mr Justice Chadwick in *Nottingham Building Society v Eurodynamic Systems Ltd* ([1993] FSR 468, 474).

Taking the affidavit evidence as a whole, his Lordship did not feel the high degree of assurance that the plaintiff's claim would succeed as to the whole range of documents now sought to such an extent that Mr Simonov should be deprived of the opportunity to inspect those documents and then to defend the claims properly as he might be advised.

The evidence, even if it went only as to belief, of the solicitor who had been primarily involved in the matter to date was not to be lightly brushed aside on an interlocutory motion in the circumstances of this complicated case.

Two potential injustices were to be weighed in the scale: first that the plaintiff was allowed to see immediately documents that he should not have been allowed to see at all; and second, that the plaintiff was prevented from seeing now rather than later documents which he should in fact have been allowed to see immediately.

The hypothetical wrong to Mr Simonov was unlikely to be undone. His Lordship was not convinced that the present state of the Cayman action called for the disclosure of the documents now as demanded, as the respondent had offered to consent to the winding-up of Alden Ltd, the principal relief sought in the petition, which was ordered by the Cayman court following the hearing on December 10.

Similarly in respect of the DNHS litigation there was no evidence of injustice to the plaintiff were he not to have sight of these papers now, or of the relevance of the papers sought to the DNHS litigation.

By contrast the plaintiff had been able to point to a specific and imminent need to see the Falkland documents, whereas Mr Davis was unable to point to any countervailing prejudice that might be suffered by his client if the injunction were granted.

Despite not feeling the high degree of assurance that the plaintiff's claim was likely to succeed, his Lordship was prepared to make a limited order to require those documents relating to Falkland to be produced to the plaintiff within a reasonable timescale, subject to a cross-undertaking in damages and an undertaking by the plaintiff not to use such documents otherwise than in relation to the Falkland litigation without further leave of the court.

Solicitors: Stephenson Harwood; Leboeuf Lamb Greene & Macrae; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Registering deceased's name

Practice Direction (Probate: Deceased's names)

In order to facilitate the operation of standing searches and caveats and to ensure the accuracy of probate records, Senior District Judge Gerald Angel, Family Division, issued the following Practice Direction on January 12:

In all instances where the deceased died in the United Kingdom and the death had been recorded in the Register of Deaths:

(a) The name and dates of birth and death of the deceased as recorded in the register shall be included in the oath lodged in support of the application made through a solicitor or probate practitioner for a grant of representation;

(b) The name and date of death of the deceased as recorded in the register shall be included in the notice lodged for a standing search or caveat; and

(c) In any case where the name of the deceased or by which the deceased was known differed from that recorded in the register, that name shall also be included in the oath or in the notice, as might be.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Reviewing medicine authority's decision

Upjohn Ltd v Licensing Authority established by the Medicines Act 1968 and Others

Case C-120/97

Before J.-P. Puissochet, President of Chamber, and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edward and M. Wathelet

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion June 9, 1998)

[Judgment January 21]

When carrying out a judicial review of a decision by the competent licensing authority to revoke an authorisation to place a proprietary medicinal product on the market, the national court's duty was not to make its own assessment of the facts, but merely to verify that the authority's decision was not vitiated by error or misuse of powers.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on a reference by the Court of Appeal for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty on questions on the interpretation of Council Directive 65/65/EEC of January 26, 1965 on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products (OJ, English Special Edition 1965-1966 p20) as amended by Council Directive 83/570/EEC of October 26, 1983 (OJ 1983 L332 p1).

Article 11 of Directive 65/65, as amended, required the competent authorities of the member states to suspend or revoke an authorisation to place a proprietary medicinal product on the market where, inter alia, the product proved harmful in the normal conditions of use.

Article 12 provides: "All decisions taken pursuant to [article 11] shall state in detail the reasons on which they are based. A decision shall be notified to the party concerned, who shall at the same time be informed of the remedies available to him under the laws in force and of the time limit allowed for the exercise of such remedies."

In the United Kingdom, the competent authority was the Licensing Authority established under the Medicines Act 1968, which delegated its regulatory functions to an executive agency, the Medicines Control Agency.

Under section 107 of the Act, any person concerned by, inter alia, a revocation decision could apply to the High Court contesting the validity of the decision.

Triazolam, a prescription drug for the treatment of insomnia which was first authorised in the United Kingdom in 1978, was also marketed under Upjohn's brand name Halcion.

In 1991, the MCA, having learned from a newspaper article that a middle-aged woman had killed her mother while under the influence of Triazolam, and after consulting the Committee for the Safety of Medicines, informed Upjohn that the Licensing Authority had decided to suspend the marketing authorisations for three months. The suspension was renewed at three-monthly intervals until June 1993 when, after representations by Upjohn had been heard, all marketing authorisations relating to Triazolam were revoked in a decision in which detailed reasons were given.

In 1991 the matter of Triazolam was referred, by France and The Netherlands, to the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products, a body consisting of representatives of the member states and the Commission of the European Communities set up under article 8 of Second Council Directive 75/319/EEC of May 20, 1975 on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products (OJ 1975 L147 p13), as amended by Directive 83/570.

In September 1993 the CPMC, after various deliberations, concluded that Triazolam should continue to be sold.

In proceedings brought in August 1993 for the quashing of the Licensing Authority's decision in June, the High Court rejected Upjohn's contention that, before the substance of the case was examined, guidance should be sought from the Court of Justice of the European Communities on how the court should proceed, but on appeal the Court of Appeal stayed the proceedings and referred three questions for preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The first question referred was whether it was the duty of a national court, when reviewing a decision by a licensing authority to revoke a licence, to determine whether or not the decision was the correct decision, as opposed to a decision which the licensing authority could reasonably have reached on the material before it.

Within the framework of rules governing proprietary medicinal products laid down by Community legislation, only article 12 of Directive 65/65 referred to the remedies available against decisions taken pursuant to article 11 of the directive.

Article 12 merely required the member states to provide for such decisions to be open to challenge by way of legal proceedings, and did not lay down detailed rules for the exercise of the right of recourse.

Upjohn maintained that if the national court were not able fully to review the action taken by the administrative authority, the rights enjoyed by Upjohn by virtue of the direct effect of article 11 of Directive 65/65, as amended, would not be effectively safeguarded.

It was settled law that in the absence of Community rules governing the matter it was for the domestic legal system of each member state to designate the courts and tribunals having jurisdiction and to lay down the detailed procedural rules governing actions for safeguarding rights which individuals derived from Community law, provided that such rules were not less favourable than those governing similar domestic actions and did not render virtually impossible or excessively difficult the exercise of rights conferred by Community law.

In regard to decisions revoking marketing authorisations taken by the competent national authorities following complex assessments in the medico-pharmacological field, it did not appear that the only appropriate means of preventing the exercise of rights conferred by Community law from being rendered virtually impossible or excessively difficult would be a review procedure involving the substitution by the courts of their own assessment of the facts, and in particular the scientific evidence relied on in support of the revocation decision, for the assessment made by the national authorities.

Where a Community authority was called on, in the performance of its duties, to make complex assessments, it enjoyed a wide measure of discretion, the exercise of which was subject to a limited judicial review in the course of which the Community judicature could not substitute its assessment of the facts for the authority's assessment.

In such cases, the Community judicature restricted itself to examining the accuracy of the findings of fact and law made by the authority concerned and to verifying, in particular, that the action taken by the authority was not vitiated by a manifest error or a misuse of powers and that it did not clearly exceed the bounds of its discretion.

Community law did not require the member states to establish a procedure for judicial review of national decisions revoking marketing authorisations, taken pursuant to Directive 65/65 and in the exercise of complex assessments, which involved a more extensive review than that carried out by the Court of Justice in similar cases.

In relation to the second question referred, a system of judicial review whereby the national courts were to determine applications for annulment of decisions revoking marketing authorisations without taking into account relevant scientific material coming to light after the adoption of the contested decision, was not such as to render virtually impossible or excessively difficult the exercise of the rights conferred by the directive.

In the event of new material coming to light following a revocation decision, the person concerned would still be able to make a fresh application for a marketing authorisation.

It would then be for the authority to assess, in the light of all the information at its disposal, whether the criteria for the grant of a fresh marketing authorisation were fulfilled.

The third question was whether it was lawful for the Licensing Authority to revoke the licence when it was known that the CPMP would soon produce an opinion as to continuance of the licence.

By article 11 of Directive 75/319, as amended, where one or more member states had suspended a marketing authorisation while one or more others had not done so, one of the states concerned could refer the matter to the CPMP for application of the procedure referred to in article 14 of that directive.

Article 14 provided, inter alia that the CPMP was to consider the matter and issue a reasoned opinion within 60 days of the date on which the matter was referred to it.

It was unnecessary to rule on whether a national authority was empowered to order the revocation of a marketing authorisation within the 60 days; as it was clear that such an authority was not precluded from revoking an authorisation where the CPMP had not produced its opinion within that time limit: the CPMP's opinion was in no way binding.

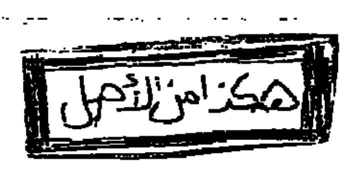
Moreover, since the issue was one of public health, article 14 could not be construed as requiring member states to await the CPMP's opinion, even after the period of 60 days allowed for its production had expired, before deciding to withdraw a medicinal product that could prove to be harmful to public health, the protection of which constituted the primary objective of Directive 65/65.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 Directive 65/65 and, more generally, Community law did not require the member states to establish a procedure for judicial review of national decisions revoking authorisations to market proprietary medicinal products, empowering the competent national courts and tribunals to substitute their assessment of the facts and, in particular, of the scientific evidence relied on in support of the revocation decision, for the assessment made by the national authorities competent to revoke such authorisations.

2 Community law did not require a national court or tribunal which was seised of an application for annulment of a decision revoking a marketing authorisation for a particular proprietary medicinal product to take into account, when determining that application, any relevant scientific material coming to light after the adoption of that decision.

3 Directives 65/65 and 75/319 as amended by Directive 83/570 were to be construed as meaning that, where the matter had been referred by various member states to the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products, following the adoption by the competent national authority of a decision revoking a marketing authorisation and the time limit for the issue by that committee of its opinion had expired, those directives did not preclude that authority from deciding to revoke the marketing authorisation in question without awaiting the opinion of the CPMC.



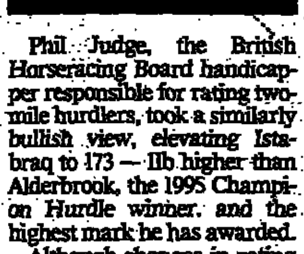
RACING: HANDICAPPERS CONFIRM IMPRESSION MADE BY CHAMPION HURDLER

Istabraq awarded top mark

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the superlatives, the recognition of greatness. As official handicappers on both sides of the Irish Sea yesterday cast their slide rules over Istabraq's stunning weekend victory at Leopardstown, they were unanimous in declaring him the best champion hurdler of the modern era — and one of the all-time greats.

Noel O'Brien, Ireland's senior National Hunt handicapper, accorded the J P McManus-owned seven-year-old a rating of 170 — up 6lb — for his sparkling victory in the AIG Europe Champion Hurdle. He said: "I have been handicapping for 18 years and that is the highest an Irish hurdler has been."



RICHARD EVANS

MARC ASPLAND

Istabraq is considered superior to Monksfield and Dawn Run among Irish-trained hurdlers

Phil Judge, the British Horseracing Board handicapper responsible for rating two-mile hurdlers, took a similarly bullish view, elevating Istabraq to 173 — 1lb higher than Alderbrook, the 1995 Champion Hurdle winner, and the highest mark he has awarded.

Although changes in rating systems down the years makes it difficult to compare different generations, O'Brien is convinced that neither Monksfield nor Dawn Run — two of the top Irish hurdlers of recent decades — would have been rated as highly as Istabraq.

"I thought Istabraq was hugely impressive on Sunday," he said. "The race went according to script with the top two putting quite a bit of distance between themselves and Zafarabad, probably the best four-year-old of his generation, and Theatreworld, twice runner-up in the Champion Hurdle.

"French Holly probably gave one of his best performances and until the third last looked an outstanding horse in his own right. I thought Istabraq's hurdling was superb. He toyed with them."

In the same way that older generations of racegoers love to recall witnessing the exploits of Arkle and other greats of the past, O'Brien said Sunday was a special day "looking at a horse which in years to come people will say was one of the best hurdlers of all time. It is nice to be there when history is being made."

O'Brien's only slight reservation concerns the quality of opposition among the upper ranks of hurdlers in Ireland and England. "It would appear that Istabraq is a truly outstanding champion but in a time when perhaps those in opposition to him would be less than champions.

"He's head and shoulders above everything in Ireland and with French Holly joint-top rated in England, he is probably quite a way ahead of anything there, but I would have a slight doubt about the overall competitiveness. If you go back to Sea Pigeon and Monksfield, who came just after Night Nurse, Comedy Of Errors and Lanzarote, there was a lot of cut and thrust. At the moment there is only one horse at the top of the tree."

With Aidan O'Brien promising that Istabraq will be even sharper come Cheltenham, the Smurfit Champion Hurdle is fast taking on the appearance of a one-horse race — unlike two other Festival contests for which entries were released yesterday.

Novice chases are risky undertakings at the best of times, but the chance of an upset is often magnified at Cheltenham, where all races tend to be run a stride faster than elsewhere.

The Guinness Arkle Chase, run over two miles on the Tuesday of the three-day meeting, has attracted 58 entries — including 17 from Ireland — while the Royal & SunAlliance Chase, staged over an extended three miles on the following day, has 88 entries, with ten of those submitted by Martin Pipe.

William Hill bets on the Royal & SunAlliance Chase: 5-1 Nick Dundee, Unsinkable Boxer, 7-1 Majadou, 10-1 Kadou Nonantais, Lord Of The River, 11-1 Spendid, 12-1 Gris D'Estruval, 16-1 others.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER
1.40 Fortria Rosie Dawn. 2.10 King's Banker. 2.40 Sister Rosza. 3.10 Reach The Clouds. 3.40 Cherrymore. 4.10 CELTIC SEASON (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

1.40 STONESBY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,310: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

1 44F1 FOLLOW DE CALL 24 (D,G,S) D McCain 9-11-10 A C Coyle (5) 80
2 F-U0 FORTRIA ROSIE DAWN 47 Miss V Williams 9-11-9 S Kelly (5) 64
3 12-0 FIGHTING TIMES 12 (V,D,F) Miss K Marks 7-11-3 V Slattery —
4 0P35 SANDRIFT 19 (V) Miss A Stokell 10-10-7 C Llewellyn [illegible]
5 0402 REMEMBER STAR 25 A D Smith 6-10-6 B Supple (3) 34

13-8 Follow De Call, 2-1 Fortria Rosie Dawn, 9-2 Fighting Times, 8-1 Sandrift, Remember Star.

2.10 BROOK MAIDEN CHASE (£2,213: 2m 7f 110yd) (9)

1 32-2 EVER BLESSED 76 (BF,S) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-6 B Fenton [illegible]
2 -00P HERBAL WISE 18 Miss A Stokell 7-11-6 Gary Lyons —
3 -F24 KENTISH BARD 17 (S) N Gaselee 7-11-6 C Llewellyn 83
4 2F2- KING'S BANKER 288 (BF,G) N Henderson 8-11-6 M A Fitzgerald —
5 -04P PURE AIR 24 Mrs C Hicks 7-11-6 M Keighley (7) —
6 1P6 RASHSKIN 25 (G) G Balding 8-11-6 S Fox —
7 425 REFLEX COURIER 52 (BF) J Upson 7-11-6 J Supple 78
8 /F/5 THE HONEST POACHER 17 (G) H Daly 9-11-6 R Bellamy 43
9 3PR- TIGER PAWS 283P (G) P R Webber 9-11-1 R Garritty —

11-10 King's Banker, 2-1 Ever Blessed, 6-1 Kentish Bard, 10-1 Reflex Courier, 16-1 Rashskin, 25-1 The Honest Poacher, 50-1 Herbal Wise, Pure Air, Tiger Paws.

2.40 RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,262: 2m 7f 110yd) (13)

1 -3F3 SISTER ROSZA 31 (G) Mrs S Lamyman 11-11-11 M A Fitzgerald 115
2 -21P JOHN DRUMM 18 (F,G,S) P R Webber 8-11-9 R Garritty 102
3 -3P0 FOOLS ERRAND 18 (V,F,G,S) G Balding 9-11-5 S Fox 43
4 5444 FLAPJACK LAD 40 (F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-4 C Llewellyn [illegible]
5 4214 BOLD ACTION 41 (F,S) J Turner 8-11-3 R Supple 109
6 -13P MAMICA 31 (F,S) M Dods 9-10-12 R Thornton 103
7 45F1 SMARTY 26 (B,S) Mrs J Pitman 6-10-12 B Fenton 71
8 U12F TREMALLT 28 (G) T George 8-10-11 T Jenks 89
9 4/5P THREE SAINTS 41 (B,S) H Daly 10-10-8 A Maguire 98
10 -006 PINK GIN 31 (V,F,G,S) M Meagher 12-10-4 C McCormack (3) 82
11 -P33 SPACE CAPPA 25 (G,S) Miss V Stephens 11-10-0 Miss V Stephens 111
12 6PP5 DEEL QUAY 19 (S) Mrs J Buckley 8-10-0 W Marston 106
13 44-6 ALASKAN HEIR 28 (V,G,S) A Streeter 8-10-0 Gary Lyons 103

9-4 Smarty, 6-1 Bold Action, 7-1 Tremallt, 10-1 Sister Rosza, Flapjack Lad, Mamica, Space Cappa, 12-1 others.

3.10 DANIEL LAMBERT HANDICAP CHASE (£2,768: 2m 1f) (6)

1 1511 PLAY GAMES 27 (CD,F,G,S) R Lee 11-11-12 A Maguire 100
2 5143 CENTAUR EXPRESS 24 (BF,D,G,S) A Streeter 7-11-9 M A Fitzgerald 118
3 2324 MACHALINI 18 T George 6-10-12 C Llewellyn 100
4 0-13 REACH THE CLOUDS 42 (BF,D,G,S) J Upson 7-10-1 J Supple [illegible]
5 5562 ASTRAL INVASION 24 (B,CD,F,G) T Wall 8-10-0 Gary Lyons 63
6 0150 EBEN AL HABEEB 41 (D,S) D McCain 8-10-0 S Wynne 67

9-4 Play Games, 3-1 Centaur Express, Reach The Clouds, 11-2 Astral Invasion, 7-1 Machalini, 20-1 Eben Al Habeeb.

3.40 DICK CHRISTIAN NOVICES CHASE (£3,948: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 B-1U KING ON THE RUN 15 (BF,D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 6-11-10 A Maguire [illegible]
2 30-2 CARDIAC ARREST 27 Miss H Knight 6-11-4 J Culloty 115
3 51-4 CHERRYMORE 24 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4 B Fenton —
4 -03F MAKOUNJI 17 (S) N Henderson 5-10-2 M A Fitzgerald —

1-2 Makounji, 4-1 King On The Run, 11-2 Cherrymore, 12-1 Cardiac Arrest.

4.10 CROXTON PARK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,427: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 5-2F CELTIC SEASON 58 Miss H Knight 7-11-12 J Culloty 94
2 6225 JASON'S BOY 17 (B,D,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-11-6 M A Fitzgerald [illegible]
3 /45P REESHLOCH 8 (S) A Turnell 10-11-5 R Garritty 76
4 53FF TOM PINCH 18 (G) G Balding 10-11-1 B Fenton 96
5 2P2P HELLO ME MAN 22 (D,F,G,S) B Llewellyn 11-10-13 R Thornton 86
6 4233 LYPHARD'S FABLE 11 (D,S) T George 8-10-1 S Wynne 93
7 4003 SENSE OF VALUE 18 (B,F,S) J Smith 10-10-0 W Marston 90

11-4 Celtic Season, 3-1 Tom Pinch, 7-2 Jason's Boy, 7-1 Reeshloch, Hello Me Man, 10-1 Lyphard's Fable, 12-1 Sense Of Value.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 10 winners from 32 runners, 31.3%; N Twiston-Davies, 7 from 27, 25.9%; Miss H Knight, 6 from 25, 24.0%; [illegible] 20, 20.0%; Mrs J Pitman, 8 from 40, 20.0%; D Nicholson, 7 from 43, 16.3%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: G Supple, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; J Culloty, 4 from 18, 22.2%; M Fitzgerald, 10 from 47, 21.3%; A Maguire, 8 from 47, 17.0%; C Llewellyn, 5 from 33, 15.2%. Only qualifiers.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 1.30 Hill Storm. 2.00 Hevergolf Princess. 3.00 Incepta. Fontwell Park: 3.20 Enipeus. Leicester: 4.10 Jason's Boy.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
1.30 Baajil. 2.00 Harpoon Louie. 2.30 Miss Hit. 3.00 Hyde Park. 3.30 An Executive Do. 4.00 Sharp Rhythm.

GOING: STANDARD — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.30 SULKY MAIDEN STAKES (£3,623: 1m 2f) (8 runners)

1 0 ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 11 B Curley 4-9-10 J P Spencer (3) 1
2 ALHUWBILL J Bridger 4-9-10 G Bardwell 7
3 354- BAAJIL 80 D Cosgrove 4-9-10 A McGlone 2
4 0 IN GOOD ORDER 25 G L Moore 4-9-5 R Brisland (7) 8
5 060- HILL STORM 140 (V) K McAuliffe 3-8-3 J Quinn 6
6 5- HORMUZ 64 M Johnston 3-8-3 J Fanning 3
7 52- WESTERN COMMAND 46 (BF) M Prescott 3-8-3 C Nutter 4
8 4-43 ZOLA 18 M Quinn 3-8-3 F Norton 5

6-4 Western Command, 7-2 Zola, 4-1 Hormuz, 8-1 Absolute Majority, Baajil, 16-1 Hill Storm, 20-1 In Good Order, 33-1 Alhuwbill.

2.00 DOG CART CLAIMING STAKES (£2,671: 1m) (11)

1 4-01 FAR-SO-LA 11 (F) Mrs L Jewell 4-8-13 R Cochrane 11
2 360- ALAMEIN 206 (F,G) D Nicholls 6-8-11 M Tebbutt 2
3 0-25 HOMESTEAD 14 (D,F,G) R Hannon 5-8-9 Dane O'Neill 8
4 25-2 LANDRIFUN 13 (D) H Collingridge 4-8-9 J Quinn 4
5 0-62 DOBERMAN 13 B Meehan 4-8-7 R Perham 3
6 005- ED'S FOLLY 167 (B) L A Dace 6-8-7 T G McLaughlin 6
7 -050 JUSTINIANUS 12 (C,G) J Bridger 7-8-7 G Bardwell 7
8 30-1 SOAKING 12 (CD,F) P Burgoyne 9-8-7 J Tate 9
9 020- SUPER SAINT 38 (D) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 5-8-7 S Carson (7) 10
10 04-4 HARPOON LOUIE 21 (CD,F,G) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 9-8-5 S Whitworth 1
11 0-00 HEVERGOLF PRINCESS 5 (B,C) T Naughton 4-8-4 R Winston (3) 5

7-2 Soaking, 5-1 Homestead, 6-1 Alamein, Harpoon Louie, 7-1 Landrifun, 8-1 Doberman, Hevergolf Princess, 10-1 others.

2.30 ARENA ON LINE SERVICES (SHOWCASE HANDICAP) (£3,606: 5f) (7)

1 3-21 TEAR WHITE 14 (CD,F,G) T Mills 5-10-0 L Carter 6
2 001- MISS HIT 55 (D,G) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-9 P Fredericks (7) 2
3 00-3 BEST OF OUR DAYS 21 (CD) A Vanderhaeghen (Bel) 4-9-5 S Whitworth 3
4 -860 IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 3 (B,CD,F,G) K Ivory 6-8-4 Martin Dwyer 1
5 2111 BAPTISMAL ROCK 1 (C) A Newcombe 5-8-3 (6ex) J Quinn 5
6 -002 BARITONE 3 (V) S Kettlewell 5-8-0 P Fessey 4
7 0-10 LEOFRIC 1 M Polglase 4-7-13 (6ex) A Polli (3) 7

4-5 Baptismal Rock, 4-1 Tear White, 5-1 Miss Hit, 8-1 Leofric, Baritone, 16-1 Best Of Our Days, 20-1 Ivory's Grab Hire.

3.00 HANSOM STAKES (£2,583: 7f) (5)

1 25-0 HYDE PARK 12 (C,G) M Prescott 5-9-13 C Nutter 2
2 21-4 INCEPTA 10 (V) P S McEntee 4-9-10 J Gotobed (7) 3
3 -261 TAKHLID 11 (D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-10 A Culhane 5
4 -320 AJIG DANCER 10 M Channon 4-9-4 J D Smith (3) 1
5 40-0 L'ESTABLE FLEURIE 21 (CD,F) B Smart 4-9-4 R Studholme (5) 4

6-4 Takhlid, 5-2 Ajig Dancer, 7-2 Hyde Park, 13-2 Incepta, 12-1 L'Estable Fleurie.

3.30 SILKS SUITE HANDICAP (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (3-Y-O: £2,671: 1m 2f) (11)

1 60-2 ROLLING RIO 21 P Haslam 9-7 C Lowther 10
2 41-5 AN EXECUTIVE DO 25 (G) P Haslam 9-6 P Goode (7) 4
3 01-4 QUESTUARY 14 (C) M Channon 9-4 Candy Morris 8
4 05-2 TRAGIC DANCER 18 K McAuliffe 9-3 A Culhane 1
5 25-5 PRINCE CONSORT 14 S C Williams 9-1 Dane O'Neill 2
6 056- AZIHAAM 48 N Graham 8-10 A Clark 3
7 04-3 BEBE COSMONAUT 17 A Newcombe 8-10 S Drowne 5
8 660- SWING JOB 48 T Mills 8-8 L Carter 11
9 -324 MALCHIK 3 (S) P Howling 8-5 J Quinn 6
10 00-5 SUPERBOB 7 R Williams 7-10 G Bardwell 9
11 56-4 SIMPSON'S DOMAIN 15 J S Moore 7-10 P Fessey 7

7-2 Rolling Rio, 5-1 Tragic Dancer, Malchik, 6-1 Questuary, 7-1 An Executive Do, Bebe Cosmonaut, 8-1 Prince Consort, 14-1 others.

4.00 PHAETON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,029: 6f) (10)

1 032- RAJMATA 39 M Prescott 9-7 C Nutter 10
2 1-18 DREAM ON ME 17 (BF,C) G L Moore 9-6 Candy Morris 7
3 -212 ERINVALE 6 (C) P Haslam 9-6 P Goode (7) 8
4 0-24 OH I SAY 5 (F,S) Miss G Kelleway 9-2 P Fredericks (7) 3
5 0-06 BANNINGHAM BREEZE 15 (D,F) D Nicholls 8-12 R Cochrane 9
6 0-05 DIAMOND GEEZER 7 (S) R Hannon 8-5 P Fitzsimons (7) 6
7 04-2 COMPLIMENTARY 11 (B) W Haggas 8-2 J Tate 1
8 54-5 SHARP RHYTHM 20 M Johnston 8-2 J Fanning 4
9 080- SILK WING 133 T Clement 7-11 Declan O'Shea 2
10 60-0 RUSSIAN VELVET 6 M Quinn 7-10 J Quinn 5

3-1 Erinvale, 4-1 Rajmata, 5-1 Complimentary, 7-1 Dream On Me, Oh I Say, 8-1 Banningham Breeze, Diamond Geezer, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Haslam, 23 winners from 113 runners, 20.4%; D Nicholls, 11 from 54, 20.4%; M Prescott, 18 from 97, 18.6%; D Chapman, 18 from 104, 17.3%; M Johnston, 46 from 269, 17.1%; P Burgoyne, 6 from 42, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: L Carter, 3 winners from 15 rides, 20.0%; C Lowther, 15 from 88, 17.0%; P Fredericks, 7 from 42, 16.7%; R Cochrane, 53 from 332, 16.0%; J Fanning, 7 from 46, 15.2%; A Culhane, 15 from 104, 14.4%.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER
1.50 Sadler's Secret — 3.20 Enipeus
2.20 Mr Jervis — 3.50 Satcotino
2.50 Effectual — 4.20 Stormhill Stag

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.50 AYEM.

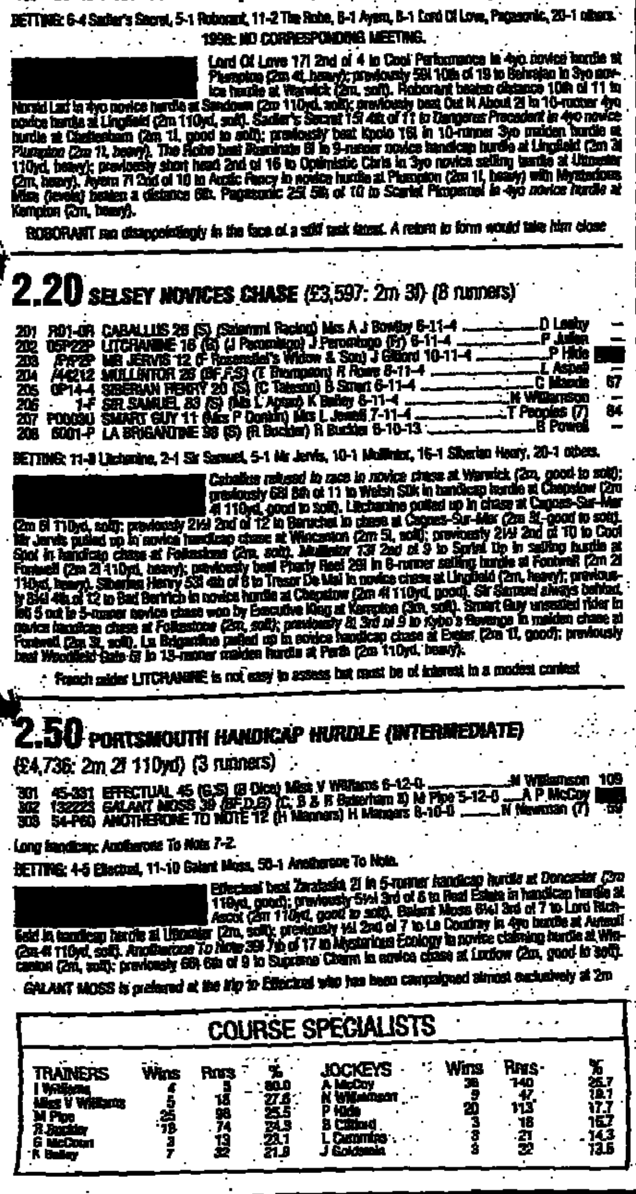
GOING: SOFT — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.50 FAREHAM JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,819: 2m 2f 110yd) (8 runners)

101 804102 LORD OF LOVE 25 (CD,S) (Moldas Racing) D Williams 11-4 Mr N Feilby (7) 74
102 4210 ROBORANT 17 (S) (F Miller) J Akehurst 11-4 S Durack 91
103 F4214 SADLER'S SECRET 25 (B,S) (A Helaissi) M Pipe 11-4 A P McCoy 77
104 /06121 THE ROBE 20 (G,S) (D Tromans) A Carroll 10-13 D McPhail (5) 88
105 02 AYEM 8 (Atlantic Foods Ltd) C Weedon 10-12 N Williamson [illegible]
106 5 PAGASONIC 13 (G Georgiou) G L Moore 10-12 P Hide 67
107 HILLSIDE ROSE 84F (Mrs G Goddard) R Frost 10-7 J Frost —
108 U3445 MYSTERIOUS MISS 8 (Mrs C Mann) C Mann 10-7 Mrs C J Mann —

BETTING: 6-4 Sadler's Secret, 5-1 Roborant, 11-2 The Robe, 8-1 Ayem, 8-1 Lord Of Love, Pagasonic, 20-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.



Lord Of Love 17l 2nd of 4 to Cool Performance in 4yo novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy); previously 59l 10th of 19 to Behrajan in 3yo novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Roborant beaten distance 10th of 11 to Norski Lad in 4yo novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft); previously beat Out N About 2l in 10-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, soft). Sadler's Secret 15l 4th of 11 to Dangerous Precedent in 4yo novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft); previously beat Kpolo 16l in 10-runner 3yo maiden hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy). The Robe beat Ruminate 8l in 9-runner novice handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy); previously short head 2nd of 16 to Optimistic Chris in 3yo novice selling hurdle at Uttoxeter [illegible]

2.20 SELSEY NOVICES CHASE (£3,597: 2m 3f) (8 runners)

[illegible]

2.50 PORTSMOUTH HANDICAP HURDLE (INTERMEDIATE) (£4,736: 2m 2f 110yd) (3 runners)

[illegible]

COURSE SPECIALISTS

[illegible]

3.20 WICKHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,425: 2m 2f 110yd) (12 runners)

401 010141 ARLEQUIN DE SOU 53 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs K Vann) P Hobbs 5-11-6 R Widger (5) —
402 BRANDON COURT 920F (Tunnel Vision) I Balding 8-11-6 Mr A Balding —
403 PP6/PP SUNDERBURG 126 (J Joseph) J Joseph 9-11-6 J Goldstein (5) —
404 0-P DASHARAN 18 (Mr & Mrs J Poynton) I Williams 6-11-6 S Durack —
405 5 HIGH GAME 13 (C Sparrowhawk) G L Moore 5-11-6 P Hide 62
406 0 NANSEN 52 (S Calvert) Miss E Lavelle 6-11-5 G Bradley 16
407 3P SHALAINES PRIDE 195 (T McGovern) T McGovern 6-11-6 C Murray (7) —
408 0 BLUE CHIP 80 (J Boodle) T M Jones 6-11-1 D Gallagher —
409 00U FOREST FLORA 15 (New Forest Racing Partnership) J Mullins 5-11-1 B Clifford —
410 3/2-02 KERRY'S OATS 15 (J Whelan) P Hedger 7-11-1 DOUBTFUL [illegible]
411 00 MISCONDUCT 13 (Playmates) Mrs M Jones 5-11-1 N Williamson 55
412 ENIPEUS 150F (B) (M Pipe) M Pipe 4-10-7 A P McCoy —

BETTING: 5-2 Enipeus, Arlequin De Sou, 4-1 High Game, 5-1 Brandon Court, 8-1 Misconduct, 16-1 Nansen, 33-1 others.

Arlequin De Sou beat Royal Predica 2½l in 8-runner chase at Auteuil (2m 1f 110yd, good); previously 25l 4th of 9 to Bipbap in chase at Auteuil (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Dasharan pulled up in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft); previously 43l 8th of 14 to Fire Ball in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft). High Game 20l 5th of 15 to Darzald in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, heavy) with Misconduct (levels) 32l 7th. Nansen 32l 7th of 13 to Young Devereaux in maiden hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). Shalaines Pride pulled up in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good to firm); previously 14l 3rd of 22 to Coonor Macleod in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good). Blue Chip 48l 16th of 19 to Monsignor in national hunt flat race at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Kerry's Oats 5l 2nd of 15 to Homme De Fer in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, soft) with Forest Flora (levels) unseated rider; previously beaten a distance 14th of 20 to Windross in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft). Enipeus ex-French, placed at 1m2f on first of three starts in 1998.

HIGH GAME shaped encouragingly on his racecourse bow and can confirm that promise here

3.50 AMBERLEY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,851: 3m 2f 110yd) (9 runners)

501 /F-PP4 PARADE RACER 52 (S) (Red & Blue Racing) P Murphy 8-11-10 R Farrant 59
502 -5F011 RIOT LEADER 31 (S) (Mr & Mrs D Gamble) T George 9-11-8 Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 80
503 31/004 SATCOTINO 8 (G) [illegible] K Burke 8-11-6 N Williamson 73
[illegible]

4.20 GOSPORT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,845: 2m 6f 110yd) (13 runners)

[illegible]

Lingfield to inspect

THERE will be an inspection at 10am today to determine prospects for tomorrow's National Hunt meeting at Lingfield. Fergus Cameron, the clerk of the course, said: "We have had 3mm of rain since Saturday and it's very wet.

"The forecast is for a dry night with some rogue showers, which is more favourable than we had expected. It looks as if we could be all right but there's a long way to go."

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

You hold the following hand as South, the dealer.

♠ — ♡ A K Q 10 9 8 5 ◇ K ♣ A K J 10 5

What would be your plan in the bidding?

Dealer South — Love All — IMPs

North: ♠ Q J 10 5 ♡ J ◇ A 7 6 4 2 ♣ 8 7 2
West: ♠ K 8 4 3 2 ♡ 7 6 2 ◇ Q 10 8 ♣ Q 4
East: ♠ A 9 7 6 ♡ 4 3 ◇ J 9 5 3 ♣ 9 6 3
South: ♠ — ♡ A K Q 10 9 8 5 ◇ K ♣ A K J 10 5

Contract: Seven Hearts by South. Lead: seven of hearts.

In the qualifying stage of the Rosenblum World Teams (played in Lille in August), Alan Mould of Manchester chose to open Four No-Trumps. This is an ancient Acol convention asking partner to name an ace. It is far from technically correct on this hand: the hearts are not even solid, let alone the clubs. But it did simplify the remaining auction. When North (Michael Alexander) responded Five Diamonds to show that ace, Mould had a punt at Seven Hearts.

How would you play it on a trump lead? The technical line is to win with dummy's jack and finesse a club immediately, reserving the ace of diamonds as a later entry to repeat the finesse, picking up queen-to-four onside.

Mould preferred to exploit his concealment of the club suit in the auction. He ran off the entire heart suit and was interested to see East discard a small club. Deciding that this could hardly be from queen-to-four, Mould played off his top clubs dropping the queen offside to land his grand slam. It must be said that a top-class defender would realise that declarer was likely to have a two-suiter for his Four No-Trump bid, and the second suit could only be clubs.

Coventry pairs

The national men's and women's pairs championships were played in Coventry at the weekend.

Results: Men: 1, D Oram (Herts) and T Waterflow (Middx); 2, M Starkings and N Stevens (Leics); 3, I Pagan (Middx) and H Anoyrkatis (Beds). Women: 1, C Vine and M Nathan (Middx); 2, R Trayman (Essex) and I Godfrey (Middx); 3, S Landy (Sussex) and A Walker (Oxon).

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov blitz

On their free day at the Wijk aan Zee, , the i grandmasters contested a one-day blitz, in which every game had to be completed within ten minutes. Kasparov dominated the event winning by a 1½-point margin and defeating both his closest rivals.

White: R Kasimdzhanov
Black: G Kasparov
Wijk aan Zee
Blitz tournament 1999
Sicilian defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Qxd4	a6
5	c4	Nc6
6	Qd2	g6
7	Nc3	Bh6
8	Qc2	Bg7
9	Be3	Nf6
10	Be2	0-0
11	0-0	Bg4
12	Rad1	Nd7
13	b3	Rc8
14	a4	Qa5
15	Nd4	Bxe2
16	Ndxe2	Nc5
17	f3	Rfd8
18	Nd5	Rd7
19	b4	Nxb4
20	Qd2	Nxd5
21	Qxa5	Nxe3
22	Rb1	Nxf1
23	Kxf1	Rdc7
24	Nf4	e6
25	g3	h5
26	Ng2	Bd4
27	Rd1	e5
28	Qb4	Rc6
29	a5	R8c7
30	Ke2	Ne6
31	Rc1	b5
32	axb6	Rxb6
33	Qa4	Kg7
34	Ne3	Bxe3
35	Kxe3	Nc5
36	Qa5	Rb3+
37	Ke2	Rcb7
38	Rc2	Ne6
39	Rd2	Nd4+
40	Rxd4	exd4
41	Qxa6	Re3+
42	Kf1	Rb1+
43	Kg2	Rb2+
44	Kh3	Ree2
45	Kh4	Kh6

White resigns

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is Keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Wijk aan Zee Blitz Tournament 1999

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1 Kasparov	*	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	½	1	½	10½
2 Anand	0	*	1	½	0	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	9
3 Ivanchuk	0	0	*	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	9
4 Kramnik	½	½	0	*	1	0	½	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	8½
5 Sokolov	0	1	1	0	*	½	1	1	½	1	1	0	½	½	8
6 Svidler	0	0	0	1	½	*	1	0	0	1	1	1	½	½	6½
7 Topalov	0	½	0	½	0	0	*	0	1	1	½	1	1	1	6½
8 Kasimdzhanov	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	*	1	0	0	1	1	1	6
9 Piket	0	½	0	1	½	1	0	0	*	1	0	0	1	½	5½
10 Bosboom	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	*	1	1	1	½	5½
11 Timman	0	½	1	0	0	0	½	1	1	0	*	0	0	1	5
12 Van Wely	½	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	*	0	1	4½
13 Reinderman	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	1	1	*	½	3½
14 Yermolinsky	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	0	0	½	*	3

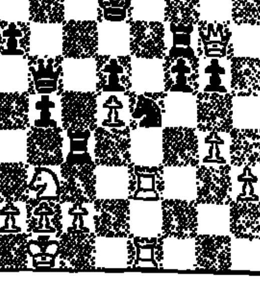
In the above table, 1 represents a win, 1/2 a draw, and 0 a loss

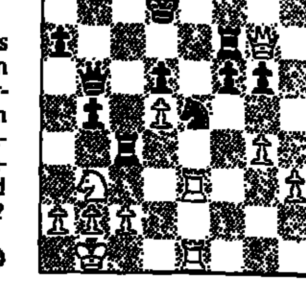
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game between Motjelev and Jirovsky, Rotterdam, 1998. Black's knight on e5 is doing a fine job preventing the white rooks from invading along the e-file. How did White overcome this obstacle?

- Solution on page 50





WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

COCKING PIECE
a. A shotgun
b. Building board
c. A jockstrap

LANGE LYZEN
a. Painted ladies
b. Winter underpants
c. Lounge lizards

HAOMA
a. Personal perfume
b. Midsummer sunrise
c. A sacred plant

HALTIA
a. A winter shrub
b. Guardian spirit
c. Lameness

Answers on page 50

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Wetherby

[illegible]

Southwell

[illegible]

Paul Merson scores Aston Villa's third goal in their comprehensive defeat of Everton, the only match that scored Fantasy points last week. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Aston Villa victory opens six-point gap at the top

This week, because only one Premiership game has been played in the past seven days, there is no award of a weekly prize and no ON-Target numbers. *Prizes will be rolled over to next week* — so watch out!

The player list (right) has been updated to include last Monday's game between Aston Villa and Everton. As a result of Villa's 3-0 win, positions on our leaderboard have altered, with Robert Little's team, Broken Arrow, extending its lead over Phil Clarke's Shabadi United from a single point to an impressive six.

Note that the Villa victory, which included two goals (worth six points) for Julian Joachim, and three-point clean sheets for goalkeeper Michael Oakes and defenders Gareth Barry, Ugo Ehiogu and Gareth Southgate, will not count towards the next weekly prize; the weekly winner announced on these pages in a week's time will be decided solely on the points scored in games played on Saturday January 30 and Sunday January 31.

Nevertheless, the points scored in that game could be decisive in the race for the monthly prize of £1,000 plus £100-worth of sports equipment, the January winner of which will be announced next week.

Any team including two-goal Julian Joachim as well as Steve Watson (who provided an assist for the third goal) and Paul Merson (who scored it) will have done well. On the other hand, Michael Ball, the Everton full-back who appears in many of the leading Fantasy teams, scored minus two as a result of being part of a defence that conceded three goals, and the totals of many of the leaders could suffer as a result.

Remember that Watson and Merson, like Dion Dublin, were transferred to Villa from other clubs *after the beginning of the season,* and may therefore be selected in the same Fantasy League team, as they are counted as still belonging to their original clubs.

■ ON-Target numbers will appear again next week. If your weekly *team total according to the player* lists matches the printed numbers, *follow the instructions to find out if* you have won the weekly ON-Target prize of £500 cash, or one of the runner-up prizes.

■ Next weekend, for once, a full programme of ten Premiership matches will be completed on *Saturday and Sunday, and there are* some promising fixtures.

The first to catch the eye is the visit of Chelsea to Highbury, where Gianluca Vialli's team, shorn of much of its striking power, must try to breach the division's most impregnable defence to guarantee a *further week at the top of the table.* Villa, behind them only on goal difference, face a tricky trip to Newcastle, who will be smarting at allowing Charlton Athletic a last-gasp equaliser in their previous match, and Manchester United go to The Valley, where the home side *will believe that the end of their* eight-match losing streak represents the turning point of their season. Unfortunately, they will have to prove it against a team that scored six times in their previous game at Leicester.

Elsewhere, Darren Huckerby, the *in-form striker, will be out to see* whether Liverpool's recent defensive improvement is real or imaginary, and expect a tight, low scoring encounter between Wimbledon and West Ham *at Selhurst Park. Why?* For the simple reason that, when they met at Upton Park, the Hammers squandered a three-goal lead, losing 4-3. Harry Redknapp, *the manager, will be doing his* utmost to ensure that there is no repeat of that defensive catastrophe.

PRIZES

- *to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final*
- *to the runner-up*
- *for third place*
- *monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment*
- *youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt*
- *£500 weekly On-Target prize*

LEADERBOARD

R Little (Broken Arrow)	260
P Clarke (Shabadi Utd)	254
P Tusler (Pin-Ups 7)	252
R Andersen (Roberts R)	249
J Kerr (Serious Squad)	248
N Kalb (Kalbs Kings 8)	246
R Deane (On The Wagon)	245
D Mead (In The City)	243
J White (Fusegear)	243
D Young (Dave 10)	242

YOUTH LEADERS

R Andersen (Roberts R)	249
D Swithenbank (Thus A-S)	233
J Popat (Popat's Army)	231
D Lewis (It's A Puppet!)	225
H Ball (Henri & Goals UU)	224
R Low (Geodr United)	223
D Martin (Saxham Tues)	223
S Rather (Spitonthevilla)	222
T Dearden (Kinkt' is God)	222
M O'Neil (The M Team)	221

Have you signed up for ON-Target?

The joy of ON-Target is that your team does not have to be brilliant to win a prize. Simply match your team's weekly total with the ON-Target number and you can enter the draw for £500. Enter a new ON-Target team using the coupon below

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. *Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with:* one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. *Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the* list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get *confirmation of your team and your personal* identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. *They must state their* date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

LUCKY DIP If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box *on the entry form. Postal entries only.*

TO ENTER BY PHONE Call **0640 67 88 99** (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 *calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the* UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

All information provided by Fantasy League Ltd © Fantasy League Ltd

Premier News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 485, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

CODE	NAME	CLUB	VALUE
	GOALKEEPER NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	FULL-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	CENTRE-BACK NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	MIDFIELDER NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m
	FORWARD NAME		£ m

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth ☐☐/☐☐/☐☐

First Name ______ Surname ______

Address ______

Postcode ______ *Daytime tel* ______

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd) ______

Credit card number: ______ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ______

Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above. Signature ______

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: *The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ*

1. *On which days do you usually buy The Times?* ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

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Use these numbers for all the information you need:

CHECKLINE
To check your team's standing
0640 625 102
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

TRANSFER LINE
To alter your team
0640 625 103
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

FAXBACK
A comprehensive update sheet
0991 123 720
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK
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0991 123 721
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)
Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

HELPLINE
for any queries
01582 702720

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
102	[illegible]	ARS	0	19	3.7
146	[illegible]	ARS	0	12	3.4
139	[illegible]	AST	0	12	3.2
140	[illegible]	AST	3	5	2.9
144	[illegible]	AST	0	-1	2.8
108	[illegible]	BLA	0	-2	2.8
126	[illegible]	BLA	0	6	2.5
127	[illegible]	BLA	0	-3	3.1
104	[illegible]	CHA	0	-11	2.3
105	[illegible]	CHA	0	0	2.2
106	[illegible]	CHA	0	-1	2.2
134	[illegible]	CHA	0	-1	2.2
137	[illegible]	CHE	0	0	2.9
138	[illegible]	CHE	0	23	3.2
107	[illegible]	COV	0	-1	2.4
117	[illegible]	COV	0	-3	2.6
103	[illegible]	DER	0	3	2.9
153	[illegible]	DER	0	9	2.6
112	[illegible]	EVE	0	0	2.4
114	[illegible]	EVE	0	0	2.7
118	[illegible]	EVE	-2	18	2.6
113	[illegible]	LEE	0	13	3.1
115	[illegible]	LEE	0	0	2.8
125	[illegible]	LEE	0	4	2.7
123	[illegible]	LEI	0	7	2.9
124	[illegible]	LEI	0	0	2.6
122	[illegible]	LIV	0	-1	3.9
131	[illegible]	LIV	0	8	3.3
116	[illegible]	MAN	0	5	4.0
121	[illegible]	MAN	0	3	3.5
109	[illegible]	MID	0	10	2.7
110	[illegible]	MID	0	0	2.4
111	[illegible]	MID	0	-3	2.5
141	[illegible]	NEW	0	8	3.0
142	[illegible]	NEW	0	0	2.7
143	[illegible]	NEW	0	2	2.5
119	[illegible]	NOT	0	-17	2.7
120	[illegible]	NOT	0	0	2.6
136	[illegible]	SHE	0	7	2.5
149	[illegible]	SHE	0	0	2.2
150	[illegible]	SHE	0	6	2.3
147	[illegible]	SOU	0	-2	2.2
148	[illegible]	SOU	0	-10	2.4
128	[illegible]	TOT	0	4	2.8
154	[illegible]	TOT	0	0	2.4
155	[illegible]	TOT	0	3	2.6
129	[illegible]	WES	0	0	2.5
130	[illegible]	WES	0	0	2.7
132	[illegible]	WIM	0	-4	2.5
135	[illegible]	WIM	0	0	2.3

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Club	Weekly	Total	Value
203	[illegible]	ARS	0	8	3.5
204	[illegible]	ARS	0	29	4.1
205	[illegible]	ARS	0	20	4.2
260	[illegible]	ARS	0	3	3.4
261	[illegible]	ARS	0	6	3.7
209	[illegible]	AST	3	18	3.7
211	[illegible]	BLA	0	0	3.2
248	[illegible]	BLA	0	8	3.1
262	[illegible]	BLA	0	1	3.5
221	[illegible]	CHA	0	-7	2.7
240	[illegible]	CHA	0	1	2.6
241	[illegible]	CHA	0	0	2.7
242	[illegible]	CHA	0	-5	2.5
243	[illegible]	CHA	0	-1	2.5

TENNIS

Powerful Spadea pulls the strokes to outwit Agassi

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

IT WAS as poor a performance as any that Andre Agassi has contrived in a decade of largely golden memories. The player he dismissed as a "journeyman" ten months ago shattered any lasting illusions that Agassi still has the substance to win a grand-slam title.

Agassi is unlikely to find so attractive an opportunity as at this Australian Open. A route once littered with barriers has parted like the Red Sea and yet Agassi has been found wanting. That knowledge will make Agassi's defeat one of the hardest he has had to bear.

Vince Spadea, whose nerve held firm when Agassi briefly threatened to indulge in gamesmanship, was Agassi's first opponent to be ranked in the world's top 50. Agassi appeared impressive when roughing up inferiors in the early rounds, but he collapsed when matched, blow for blow, in this fourth-round tussle.

It was apparent last year that Agassi's eight-month absence had diluted the fizz from his game. He attributed his poor grand-slam record in 1998 to his fervent pursuit of a world ranking commensurate with his talent. This time, he came here fresh and supposedly primed for the fight. He showed little of that in succumbing to Spadea, whose own attitude was faultless in a match rendered monotonous by do-or-die hitting.

The comments Agassi made about Spadea, back in March, clearly rankled his fellow-American. So much so that Agassi, seeded No 5, has lost two subsequent encounters between the pair. Mind you, Spadea looked more like the vanquished when he related his tale of victory.

His slumped posture hardly squared with one who, in his own words, has just achieved his biggest accomplishment to date. "Well, I didn't end world hunger or anything extravagant like that," he said. What Spadea, the world No 44, may have done is to find a balance within his personal arrangements. His father, Vincent, has taken too paternal an interest in his career. Indeed, Agassi had also ventured that Spadea, 24, could scale the heights if he loosened his father's overbearing embrace.

Spadea made that break towards the end of last year and has reaped an immediate dividend. He has never previously advanced beyond the fourth round of any grand slam; now he plays the unseeded Tommy Haas, of Germany, for a semi-final place.

Agassi opened the match as though affronted by Spadea's presence on the same court. He flailed wildly off both wings, racking up an error-count of suicidal proportions. "When I get a little discouraged, a lot of things start breaking down," he said with rare understatement.

There was more to it than that. Whenever Spadea struck a clean ground stroke — and he struck several — Agassi attempted to strike back even harder. It was little wonder that a host of pulped balls were tossed, at regular intervals, to the scrapheap.

"He is used to dictating the play and running people around," Spadea reflected of his opponent, "but I am capable of hitting the ball as big as him." He also read Agassi's intent, often anticipating the direction of shot before Agassi had even swung his racket in anger.

So much so that Agassi appeared uninterested when Spadea served for the match. He made no effort to run down the last two points, and was humbled 6-1, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3 in 2hrs 40 mins. A count of 71 unforced errors told its own story about the paucity of Agassi's performance.

Spadea confronts Haas after the latter brushed aside Fabrice Santoro, of France, 6-2, 6-2, 7-5. Like Spadea, Haas, 20, is enjoying his most profitable grand-slam run on his second visit here. Unlike Spadea, Haas has yet to meet a seed in a tournament where those accorded that status have performed abjectly. At least Agassi was keeping good company.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, seeded No 10, escaped the rot yesterday. The Russian made hard work of beating Andrei Pavel, of Romania, who rallied from two sets down before succumbing 6-3, 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 6-4.

Of the four men's seeds remaining, two collide in the quarter-finals tomorrow when Kafelnikov, of Russia, confronts Todd Martin, seeded No 15. Martin, of the United States, yesterday accounted for Wayne Black, of Zimbabwe, in straight sets.

A significant upset loomed in the women's event when, on a sweltering day, Martina Hingis, seeded No 2, left the court for a ten-minute break after sharing the first two sets with Amanda Coetzer, the No 16 seed. Coetzer, of South Africa, rallied from 3-5 in the second set before poaching the ensuing tie-break. Hingis, the title-holder, slowly frazzled in a 31-degree temperature that would have been considerably hotter on the court. She required 129 minutes, embracing 67 unforced errors, to see off the persistent Coetzer 6-3, 6-7, 6-1.

"The break helped me to put my mind together and just forget about what happened in the second set," Hingis said, "but I had control of the match pretty much the whole time." In that respect, Hingis's comments were at odds with her on-court performance.

Hingis faces Mary Pierce in the quarter-finals. Pierce, the No 7 seed, overwhelmed Anna Kournikova, seeded No 12, in a match described by Hingis as a battle between the game's "blonde killers". That, too, proved wide of the mark as Kournikova, of Russia, disintegrated 6-0, 6-4 under Pierce's withering ground strokes.

The two British boys engaged in the junior singles championship opened with victories. Mark Hilton, who made a favourable impression at the National Championships in November, edged out Bo Hodge, of the United States, 7-6, 7-5, and Lee Childs, of Somerset, trounced Charles Sevigny, of Canada, for the loss of only three games.

Cap that: hard-hitting Spadea plays a backhand during his four-set victory over Agassi

RESULTS

MEN

SINGLES: Fourth round: V Spadea (US) bt A Agassi (US) 6-1, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3; T Haas (Ger) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-2, 6-3, 7-5; T Martin (US) bt W Black (Zim) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt A Pavel 6-3, 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 6-4.

DOUBLES: Third round: G Kuerten (Br) and N Lapentti (Ecu) bt N Kulti and M Tillstrom (Swe) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4; P Galbraith (US) and P Haarhuis (Holl) bt M Mirnyi (Belo) and A Olhovskiy (Russ) 6-4, 6-4.

WOMEN

SINGLES: Fourth round: S Graf (Ger) bt B Schett (Austria) 6-1, 6-1; M Seles (US) bt S Testud (Fr) 6-0, 6-3; M Hingis (Switz) bt A Coetzer (SA) 6-3, 6-7, 6-1; M Pierce (Fr) bt A Kournikova (Russ) 6-0, 6-4.

DOUBLES: Third round: F Labat (Arg) and D Van Roost (Bel) bt E Callens (Bel) and J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 6-4, 6-1; L Davenport (US) and N Zvereva (Belo) bt C Cristea and R Dragomir (Rom) 6-0, 6-3; Y Basuki (Indo) and A Mauresmo (Fr) bt A Carlsson (Swe) and J Dokic (Aus) 6-2, 6-0. **Quarter-finals:** S Williams and V Williams (US) bt L Neiland (Lat) and A Sánchez-Vicario (Sp) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

MIXED DOUBLES

Second round: D Johnson and P Kimberley (US) bt M Bhupathi (Ind) and M Lucic (Cro) 6-7, 6-2, 7-6; C Haggard (SA) and E Callens (Bel) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) and L McShea (Aus) 2-6, 6-3, 6-3; N Kulti (Swe) and M Oremans (Holl) bt D Roditi (Mex) and L Wild (US) 6-3, 6-2; E Ferreira (SA) and D Graham (US) bt R Leach (US) and L Neiland (Lat) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; M Mirnyi (Belo) and S Williams (US) bt J Tarango (US) and E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-4, 6-4.

BOYS

SINGLES: First round (GB unless stated): L Childs bt C Sevigny (Can) 6-1, 6-2; M Hilton bt B Hodge (US) 7-6, 7-5.

Graf and Seles still stirred by love of game

Julian Muscat savours the renewal of a rivalry that has been all too rare

AS Andre Agassi, one of the game's icons, departed incongruously from the men's singles in the Australian Open yesterday, two more advanced to a quarter-final pairing in the women's competition that evokes memories of a rivalry cruelly arrested in its tracks.

In a tournament yielding upset after upset, the senses were stirred when Steffi Graf and Monica Seles won through to confront each other tomorrow. It will be their fourteenth encounter since they first met in the French Open semi-finals a decade ago.

At that time, Graf, of Germany, and Seles, Yugoslavia-born but now a United States citizen, were the game's irresistible force and immovable object. Between them, they won 21 of the 24 grand-slam tournaments between 1988 and 1993 — after which Seles was stabbed by a supporter of Graf's when playing in Hamburg. The rivalry that was sure to develop was never to reach fruition.

The pair have met twice in the grand-slam arena since Seles, her mind scarred more than her body, returned to the game in 1995. In that year, Graf defeated Seles in the US Open final after one of the finest matches in memory. Graf duplicated the verdict in the Flushing Meadows final 12 months later. However, their lives have run along divergent off-court paths since Seles was stabbed.

Seles was troubled by the stomach cancer that ultimately was to claim her father, Karolj, in May last year. Graf, meanwhile, has been plagued by injuries and the scandal of her father and business manager, Peter, serving a jail sentence for tax evasion. These circumstances served to dilute a rivalry that would have eclipsed all others.

Graf, 29, has accrued 21 grand-slam titles; Seles, 25, has 12. Remarkably, Seles has yet to lose in the 39 matches she has played in Australia. The holder of four Australian Open titles, Seles is also unbeaten over 20 matches in Canada. Graf leads their meetings 9-4, but Seles triumphed in their only encounter here — in the 1993 Australian Open final.

These days, both women compete without the burning intensity that governed their respective youths. Seles — who prevailed yesterday 6-0, 6-3 over Sandrine Testud, seeded No 14 — said of her reunion with Graf: "I am really looking forward to playing her. The only reason both of us are still playing is because we just love the game. Both of us want to have challenges like this one."

Seles, left, and Graf have fought back after personal setbacks

President likely to survive bribery scandal

Olympic family will stand by Samaranch

Rob Hughes believes that the IOC must fulfil its promises to carry out substantial reforms

Why do old men cling to power when the circles over which they preside are tarnished beyond redemption? The joyride is over for Juan Antonio Samaranch. His court, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Lausanne, is discredited, and the uncomfortable road ahead is strewn with more and more inquiries, deeper and darker accusations.

The instinct to remain as head of this "family", as Samaranch calls the Olympic movement, may well defy all those who think the honourable course is for him to resign. The gratitude of the members, many of them invited into the circle by President Samaranch himself, doubtless will ease him through the vote of confidence to which he, grandly, has subjected himself.

However, even the IOC admits that Salt Lake City is not the only den of iniquity in what most see as bribery and corruption, and the president and his executive Olympians insist is merely the breaking of their solemn oath. The worst fear in Lausanne is that the United States judiciary and the House of Representatives will now subpoena members as witnesses under a more exacting oath, in criminal trials against officials of Salt Lake City's Olympic bid.

That is the future. So are the claims that Sydney, Amsterdam, Berlin, Melbourne and Quebec, winners and losers in the bidding game, all spread excessive largesse to the Olympic family. Over here, from Manchester and possibly from Birmingham, there are cries that the foul nature of opposing bids robbed them of millions of pounds spent entertaining IOC members. Aside from the inevitable question of whether this "gross hospitality", as Manchester's Sir Bob Scott called it, was itself an inducement to look kindly on the Mancunian bid, the Olympic godfathers might point out that Manchester did not lose last time around to Sydney, but, in fact, came third behind China. However, Papa Samaranch is in appeasing mood. "We will study their (the cities seeking recompense) problems, and I think the IOC will give to them the just solution," he said yesterday.

Fine, and all this is going to be honest, transparent, accountable as never before in the Olympic process.

As the ranks close, as even those who stand in line to succession say this is not the time to impeach the president, we must assume that, barring more direct implication on his part, Samaranch will avoid his personal removal until his term expires in 2001. The vote of confidence, from the family, would be akin, after all, to asking the Democrats what should become of Bill Clinton, or expecting the athletes of all the world's games to sign and to stick by a pledge never to take a banned substance.

So the best we can do is to be relentless in trying to ensure that Samaranch sticks to his word in spending the rest of his presidency seeking to ensure reform so that he could hand over the IOC to his successor with "the prestige it deserves".

Prestige? The word, alas, has almost fallen through the hollow rings. Two positive aspects have already emerged from the scandal. We learn that the IOC is to establish an Ethics Commission, composed of "senior persons, a majority of whom will be independent, outside members", and that, thank goodness, no longer will 114 members traipse around the globe with their goody bags, but an Election Committee, comprising eight IOC members who are not on the executive board, plus three athletes, and one representative of the International Winter Sports Federations, be formed to ensure objectivity.

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The IOC, the unimpeachable supreme body in sport, thus admits that it must be seen to police itself. It admits the need for an Ethics Commission, that the enlarged family could not be trusted to make the honourable decision.

We are getting somewhere, slowly. Questioning Samaranch, and his ability, at 78, to carry out reform, is not entirely ageist. Sir Arthur Gold, the retired London solicitor, is 82 and still president of the Amateur Athletics Association and honorary life-president of the European Athletics Association. "Principles have nothing to do with age," Sir Arthur said yesterday. "I believe either Samaranch was incompetent or ill-informed if he was unaware of the culture of gifts accepted by his members. In either case the honourable course would be to resign."

Gold, a fearless campaigner in his day against drug abuse, has little faith in a vote of confidence ousting the IOC president. "It will be an open show of hands by a body of men and women, over 50 per cent of whom enjoyed his patronage and cannot condemn him," Gold said. "There is a lack of courage, people will not stand up for principles."

He is aware that the Winter Olympics have a spin-off from income derived from the facilities for many years after the Games, but Gold believes that it is time to return the Summer Olympics to Greece, where they were originally founded more than a thousand years before the birth of Christ. To Athens in perpetuity?

"No, I'm thinking of Olympia where, close to the Mediterranean, we could create a site rather like a Vatican City."

The British, long ago, had their turn at leading and administering world sports. Our schoolmasters did not envisage the marriage of money and sport which, down the television lens and in the era of the satellite wars, have turned sport irredeemably into gargantuan business, with all its bloated problems for security and potential for corruption.

Yet it was a Briton, Dame Mary Glen-Haig, an honorary member of the IOC, who questioned before the centenary modern Olympics in Atlanta in 1996: "Has the challenge presented by Pierre de Coubertin to the youth of the world been honoured? Are we guilty of bowing to man's desire for power in sport? Is there a God named Money?"

Questions of weight indeed, questions that will not be answered until the bribery — sorry, misconduct — saga has run its disreputable course.

Samaranch faces a vote of confidence by his members but he is expected to stay in office until his term ends in 2001

Beijing leads the backlash

By John Goodbody

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday began to widen its investigation into the "votes-for-favours" allegations surrounding other recent bids to stage the Games. With the Olympic movement reeling from the resignations of three members and the recommendation that six others should be expelled after the inquiry into the choice of Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Olympics, there are now fears that more revelations will damage fatally the world's biggest sporting event.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, has emphasised that the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and Salt Lake City Winter Games will not be moved. However, an inquiry will now begin into the statement last week by John Coates, who led the Sydney bid, that money was offered to the national Olympic committees of Kenya and Uganda before the ballot in 1993, which gave Sydney a 45-43 victory over Beijing. Coates has insisted that the offers were not bribes but part of an assistance programme for African athletes.

However, Zhang Honghai, the head of foreign affairs for the Beijing City Government, said yesterday: "Such dirty things should not happen in Olympic bidding. The IOC should be able to resolve this problem, otherwise the Olympic movement will have no future. We felt at the time it wasn't just sports factors ... but we never imagined there were so many other various factors in the background."

Five Nagano residents have joined the controversy by planning to file a lawsuit today to demand the return of £4.75 million of taxpayers' money, which went into the successful bid for the 1998 Winter Games. The account book, detailing how the money was spent, has been destroyed.

Kaoro Iwata, the leader of the residents' group, said: "We assume that the official subsidies were spent for such illegal purposes as excessive entertainment and suspected vote-buying. The burning of the account book itself supports the suspicion."

Sumikazu Yamaguchi, a former external affairs officer for the bid committee, has said that he ordered the book's destruction as "there was no space for storage". He added that such records could be "embarrassing" to some IOC members.

Prost, right, introduces his drivers, Jarno Trulli, Stephane Sarrazin and Olivier Panis, at the 1999 launch of the Prost-Peugeot team. Photograph: Michel Lipchitz

Panis launches bid to banish fear factor

Kevin Eason on the anxieties that have dogged a bright talent of Formula One

THE one piece of baggage no racing driver can afford to carry with him to the 16 grands prix that make up the Formula One world championship is fear. Yet Olivier Panis confessed yesterday that he drove through last season knowing that a single accident could spell the end of his career. That fear haunted him at every race, a "dark cloud", as the Frenchman described it, that hung over him each time he climbed into the cockpit of his Prost-Peugeot.

His confidence was affected badly enough for both he and Alain Prost, his team principal, to decide on a cautious future and Panis, 32, has only a one-year contract. Prost said: "He needs to drive 100 per cent this season. Because the car was not good last year, it made his problems worse, but he can put that behind him now."

For a racing driver to admit to being frightened requires bravery, though Panis refused to unburden himself at the time either to Jarno Trulli, his team-mate, or to Prost. "Alain had enough to worry about without having to listen to me and my worries," Panis said. "But he has been behind me all the way since my accident and it was my confidence in him that brought me back into Formula One."

Panis had established himself as one of the sport's most exciting young drivers when, at Montreal in 1997, the suspension of his Prost failed and the car smashed into a tyre wall at 180mph. When doctors freed him from the wreckage, few thought that he could overcome the damage to his twisted legs and return to life at the top.

Panis thought he could, until the first grand prix of last season when he realised that the trauma and the after-effects of his injuries would play a substantial role in determining whether he could drive to the limits of his ability.

Doctors had warned him that they could not repair his right leg, fixed with two metal supports from ankle to knee, if it was damaged again. Panis said: "Things were difficult in my head. I was driving knowing that a mistake could mean the end of driving in Formula One and that is not the way to go out in a grand prix. It was always there with me."

The answer was to book himself into a hospital immediately after the final race of last season to have the metal removed from his legs. The Olivier Panis who had a brief test in a car before Christmas felt revitalised and confident in a leg that had more movement and sensitivity to the throttle control.

If he is to return to winning ways, though, he will need more than his old bravery and skill. The Prost-Peugeot was unwieldy and unreliable last season. Alain Prost has hired John Barnard, designer of his world championship-winning McLaren of the 1980s, to try to create a new and more aerodynamic car.

Even so, Prost remains cautious. "We have to assume that McLaren and Ferrari will be in front, but then there will be several teams after that," he said. "We want to be competing with them for points. That has to be our goal for this season."

SPORT IN BRIEF

McRae awaits water pump appeal

■ **MOTOR RALLYING:** Colin McRae's Ford team will appear before an FIA court of appeal in Paris on Monday to find out whether their result from the Monte Carlo Rally will stand (Jeremy Hart writes). The team ran under appeal after their cars were found with illegal water pumps. If the team are not excluded, they will be free to run the rest of the year with the oversized pump. If, as expected, their result is withdrawn, the long-term future of the car will be decided at a meeting of the FIA's rally technical working group on February 4. At best Ford can hope that FIA will bring in a rule change to allow the water pump to be used for the rest of the year. At worst, the team could be banned from using the pump for the rest of 1999.

■ **CRICKET:** **Ricky Ponting, the Australia batsman, has been suspended for three matches by the Australia Cricket Board as punishment for his part in a nightclub brawl. Ponting was also given a suspended fine of $5,000 (£1,940). The 24-year-old Tasmanian has already missed two of Australia's one-day internationals against England and Sri Lanka because he was stood down after being knocked unconscious in a Sydney nightclub on January 18. Ponting is seeking counselling for a drinking problem.**

■ **SNOOKER:** Tony Drago and Mark King suffered surprise defeats in the first round of the Regal Welsh Open in Cardiff yesterday. Drago was beaten 5-0 by Stuart Bingham, ranked 164th in the world, and King, a finalist in this event two years ago, went down 5-3 to Mike Dunn, the world No 139.

■ **CRICKET:** **Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was named Australian of the Year yesterday. He follows Allan Border, a former captain, in winning the coveted award. Other notable Australians to achieve the honour include Paul Hogan, the *Crocodile Dundee* actor, Sir Jack Brabham, the racing driver, and Dame Joan Sutherland, the soprano.**

■ **BASKETBALL:** Michael Olowokandi, the No 1 pick in the National Basketball Association draft, was released from his contract with Kinder Bologna, the Italian League club, yesterday, leaving him free to join the Los Angeles Clippers.

RUGBY UNION: PROPOSALS COULD SIGNAL THE END OF CROSS-BORDER FIXTURES

English prepare to leave Wales behind

By Mark Souster

WITH only five days until the scheduled deadline for agreement on the structure of English domestic rugby, it appears increasingly likely that proposals for an Anglo-Welsh league will collapse. Against the backdrop of increased opposition within England to the concept, including the unwanted spectre of a special general meeting, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) told Welsh officials on Sunday at a meeting at Droitwich that they would accept only five Welsh clubs in a cross-border competition. It is an ultimatum to which Wales, which wants double that figure, will not agree.

In the unlikely event of the impasse being broken, it appears that England will stick with the Allied Dunbar Premiership, even in a restructured format. That places a significant question mark over the futures of Cardiff and Swansea, who would appear to have little option but to return to the Welsh league. However, the problem of the ten-year loyalty agreement that both clubs refused to sign would still have to be confronted.

Asked whether he felt that English clubs were ready to turn their backs on the supposedly binding legal agreement, Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, who also sits on the board of English First-Division Rugby (EFDR), said: "I don't know, but if they did, it would not say much for them. As far as I am concerned, it is a two-way thing.

"All our argument is about is finding a level for a professional game. The way things stand, we can't negotiate with the WRU. There is no give and take. We wrote to them three weeks ago with a letter outlining what we felt — and so did a number of other Welsh clubs — was a workable, peaceful solution. We haven't had a reply yet."

He will find out more today at an EFDR board meeting in London, which is due to hear an update on progress from Tom Walkinshaw, the chairman. Walkinshaw will outline various scenarios in the knowledge that the RFU will insist that the clubs will be liable for fines imposed by the International Rugby Board for playing the unofficial matches that have already cost the union £60,000 in withheld grants.

A senior official said: "The whole English game should not suffer for the action of the clubs. I think the IRB is understanding our position more and accepting the dilemma that their submission to the European Commission places us in."

The clubs themselves also realise that an Anglo-Welsh tournament could fall under the control of the Five Nations Committee, creating the prospect of continued turmoil.

In an attempt to allay the fears of clubs in England and, in particular, those of Bristol and Worcester, the RFU reiterated yesterday that any structure put into place next season would be subject to the principles of the Mayfair Agreement with regards to the issues of relegation and promotion. It also gave assurances that any club affected in any proposed changes would be party to any discussions.

Martin Johnson plays his 200th first-team game for Leicester, the league leaders, tonight, when they meet Richmond at the Madejski Stadium in a match re-arranged from last week. With Stuart Potter injured, Craig Joiner retains his place at outside centre and Graham Rowntree returns at loosehead prop. Neil Back is doubtful wth flu.

Richmond have named a squad, but the only definite non-starter is Adrian Davies. John Davies is expected to make his last appearance before finalising a move to Llanelli on Thursday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tuigamala helps Gateshead

By Christopher Irvine

WHEN Gateshead Thunder play their first pre-season match away to Castleford Tigers on Friday, they will have in their ranks a 19-stone Tongan wing recommended by Va'aiga Tuigamala, who is assisting the new JJB Super League club in an advisory capacity. Epi Taione, 18, has been playing rugby union for Tynedale for 18 months and has spent four weeks training with Gateshead.

He is one several South Seas players whom Tuigamala is helping to nurture in both codes, although the Newcastle Falcons wing has no plans to return to rugby league himself. "Inga [Tuigamala] has some ideas about developing young island players and we have been talking to him about a million things, from race relations to education, but not about playing for us," Shane Richardson, the Gateshead chief executive, said.

Kevin Tamati, the coach of Whitehaven, has offered Tuigamala match terms to guest for the Cumbrian side in the first division over the summer, however. "He hasn't said no to joining us," Tamati said.

The one significant transfer before the Silk Cut Challenge Cup deadline expired last night was a move by Tony Kemp, the Leeds Rhinos stand-off half, to Wakefield Trinity.

The former Castleford and Newcastle Knights player has signed a two-year deal with the promoted Super League club. Kemp, 31, struggled to make the Leeds side last year and competition at stand-off has increased at Headingley with the addition of Karl Pratt, from Featherstone Rovers.

Maea David, the Western Samoa utility player, has joined Bramley, of the first division, from Hull Sharks, a year after a broken leg in a pre-season match restricted him to one appearance in the Super League.

SKI CLUB

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Runs to Resort	Offs	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	13	77	Fair	Worn	Packed	Cloud	[illegible]	[illegible]
Obergurgl	40	180	Hard	Hard	Varied	Fine	[illegible]	[illegible]
Söll	20	70	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	[illegible]	14/01
Canada								
Lake Louise	100	131	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	[illegible]	[illegible]
France								
Alpe d'Huez	60	150	Fair	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Argentière	60	115	Good	Closed	Varied	Sun	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avoriaz	20	100	Good	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
La Clusaz	35	110	Good	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	[illegible]	14/01
La Plagne	60	150	Fair	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14/01
La Tania	64	100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	2	14/01
Les Arcs	58	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	14/01
Megève	30	115	Fair	[illegible]	Varied	Sun	5	14/01
Méribel	50	120	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	6	14/01
Tignes	60	160	Good	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	2	14/01
Val Thorens	70	130	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	4	14/01
Val d'Isère	65	140	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	1	14/01
Valmorel	40	125	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Fine	3	14/01
Italy								
Cervinia	30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	Sun	[illegible]	14/01
Cortina	35	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	Sun	2	14/01
Livigno	30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	[illegible]	5	13/01
Norway								
Geilo	70	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	[illegible]	3	17/01
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	15	100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sun	6	14/01
Grindelwald	25	120	Good	[illegible]	Varied	Fair	3	14/01
Klosters	35	130	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	Fine	1	14/01
St Moritz	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Some	Packed	Fine	3	13/01
Verbier	20	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Varied	Sun	2	14/01
Wengen	10	[illegible]	[illegible]	Open	Varied	Sun	3	14/01
Zermatt	35	120	[illegible]	Icy	Varied	Fine	3	14/01
United States								
Aspen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deer Valley	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

FOOTBALL

Collymore seeks help for stress and depression

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

STAN COLLYMORE, the temperamental Aston Villa striker, is to seek counselling for stress and depression in an attempt to resurrect his career in the FA Carling Premiership. Neither Collymore nor John Gregory, the Villa manager, were willing to speak publicly about the latest twist in the player's controversial career yesterday, but a statement was issued by the club.

It read: "Stan Collymore has made it clear that pressure and stress have been building up for a long period of time, which culminated in the decision by the club not to consider him fit to play on Saturday. Following this, Stan has decided that he wishes to seek further counselling to help him overcome his current difficulties.

"Following extended meetings throughout the day with both Stan and his representative, the manager and board of directors of Aston Villa FC have expressed their desire to help Stan through his current problems, as it would with any of its employees."

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, was also unavailable to expand on the statement, which was made necessary by Collymore's failure to turn up for the FA Cup fourth-round tie against Fulham at Villa Park on Saturday, which Fulham won 2-0. Collymore was believed to be angry at Gregory's decision to use him only as a substitute - but Paul Stretford, his agent, claimed that he had visited the club's medical staff and had been diagnosed as "ill".

Gregory took training as usual yesterday morning, but Collymore was not there. When Gregory left the training ground, he declined to discuss the matter. After the meeting between, Gregory, Ellis, Collymore and Stretford, which went on into the early evening, the statement was issued with no further comment. While there might be some sympathy if Collymore's apparent plight is genuine, many Villa fans have long been disenchanted by his antics since he joined the club from Liverpool for £7 million in May 1997. The ailment does appear to be catching, too, with Paolo Di Canio, the Sheffield Wednesday striker, and Mark Viduka, the Celtic striker, having cited stress for the recent absences from their respective clubs.

Collymore: problems

Collymore's day had begun badly when he learnt that he faces a possible driving ban. He failed to turn up at Birmingham magistrates court to answer a charge of driving his Range Rover at 82mph in a 40mph zone in Birmingham on August 25 last year.

With minds focused on Collymore, Villa officials had little time yesterday to contemplate the possible move of Juninho, the Atlético Madrid and former Middlesbrough midfield player, to Villa Park. Representatives of Atlético visited the Midlands for preliminary talks last week, but Middlesbrough have since emerged as favourites to re-sign the Brazilian.

Juninho played only as a 66th-minute substitute in Atlético's 2-1 victory against Celta Vigo on Sunday, but reaffirmed his desire to stay in Spain. However, Arrigo Sacchi, the Atlético coach, said that Juninho played no part in his plans. "I appreciate him as a footballer but the problem is that I can't play him and Juan Carlos Valerón together," Sacchi said. "We have two excellent central midfielders but when they have played together, things haven't worked out."

Osvaldo Giraldo, Juninho's father and business adviser, is believed to favour a move to Middlesbrough, who Juninho left for a fee of £12 million 18 months ago. Middlesbrough claim to have first option on Juninho and Steve Gibson, the club chairman, is due fly to Spain this week for talks. Bryan Robson, the manager, is expected to accompany him.

Though Gregory acknowledges Middlesbrough's option, which is legally binding, he said: "That doesn't mean anything if the player doesn't want to go there."

Marc-Vivien Foe is expected to make his debut for West Ham United against Wimbledon on Saturday after completing his £3.5 million transfer from Lens. The Cameroon international, who can play in central midfield or defence, passed a medical yesterday.

O'Neill and Reid aim for same goal

BY MEL WEBB

THERE is much for Leicester City and Sunderland to play for when they meet in the first leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final at the Stadium of Light tonight, not least of which is the restoration of fractured confidence.

Both clubs were eliminated from the FA Cup on Saturday but, with a place in Europe beckoning the winner of the competition, both will be anxious to wipe the memory of such recent cup reverses from their minds.

The teams were busy playing the mutual admiration game yesterday, but when it comes to the action tonight, it is likely that quarter will be neither taken, nor given.

"Coming up against a Premiership outfit like Leicester, who I have a lot of respect for, is a tough test," Kevin Ball, the Sunderland captain, said. "They're a league above us and they're doing well. But once on the pitch, it's just two teams having a right good go at each other."

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, regards Sunderland as certainties for the FA Carling Premiership next season, and has no illusions as to the task facing his side, who have conceded nine goals in their past two matches.

"Sunderland's priority is promotion and, although I'm sure Peter Reid will pour scorn on the idea, sitting pretty in the league might mean them not being fully wound up for a cup game," he said.

"But we know it will be tough. Sunderland appear to be playing at Premiership standard already, and the difference in league status will count for nothing when we get on the pitch."

Tony Cottee has a calf strain and, if he unable to play, Muzzy Izzet may have to move up from midfield for the second game running to partner Emile Heskey.

GILL ALLEN

David Hacker and Carolyn Reid, who have been named Hockey Sport 1998 Club Players of the Year, show off their respective silverware in London yesterday (Sydney Friskin writes). Hacker, 34, is the first Welshman to receive the award. He made more than 100 appearances for Wales, though represented Great Britain on only five occasions, being unlucky to have missed selection for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. He was captain and player-coach of Wales at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia last year and successfully led Wales in the European Nations Cup qualifying tournament. Hacker, a teacher at Millfield School, played most of his hockey with Hounslow in the 1980s but has since joined forces with Sean Kerly at Canterbury. Reid, 26, the England international who plays for Hightown, becomes the first goalkeeper to be honoured since Jo Thompson won the award in 1991 (Cathy Harris writes). She produced some excellent performances in England's international build-up to the World Cup in Utrecht last year, and by the end of the tournament was firmly established as No 1 in the position. Though England could finish only ninth, her season ended on a high note with a Commonwealth silver medal. A teacher at St Nicholas Roman Catholic High School in Hartford, Cheshire, she captained England Under-21s at the 1993 World Cup in Spain, and has won several indoor and outdoor medals in European club competition.

ROWING: SCOTS SEE TRADITIONAL CHALLENGE ON THAMES AS VALUABLE ASSET

Boat Race finds sound investment

BY MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

BOTTLES of whisky, rather than gin, were distributed to press men yesterday when it was announced that Aberdeen Asset Management, the Scotland-based investment group, will sponsor the Boat Race for the next three years, with an option for a further three years until 2004.

No definite figure was given, but it is known that Aberdeen Asset Management will be more than matching Beefeater, the Boat Race sponsor for 12 years up to 1998, which handed more than £1.4 million over the last three years of its involvement with the event.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the news was received with some relief by Duncan Clegg, the race organiser, who has been chasing potential sponsors since 1997, when Beefeater announced that 1998 would be its final year of commitment.

Both the Oxford and Cambridge squads have had to adjust their training expenditure since September, but can now concentrate more fully on the task in hand, a fact confirmed by Charlie Humphreys, the Oxford president, who said of the deal yesterday: "It makes our lives a lot easier."

Clegg said: "In the context of today's sponsorship marketplace, we believe this is an excellent deal. The support means that the Universities will be able to maintain their investment in coaching, training and equipment, which probably produced the fastest two crews ever in 1998."

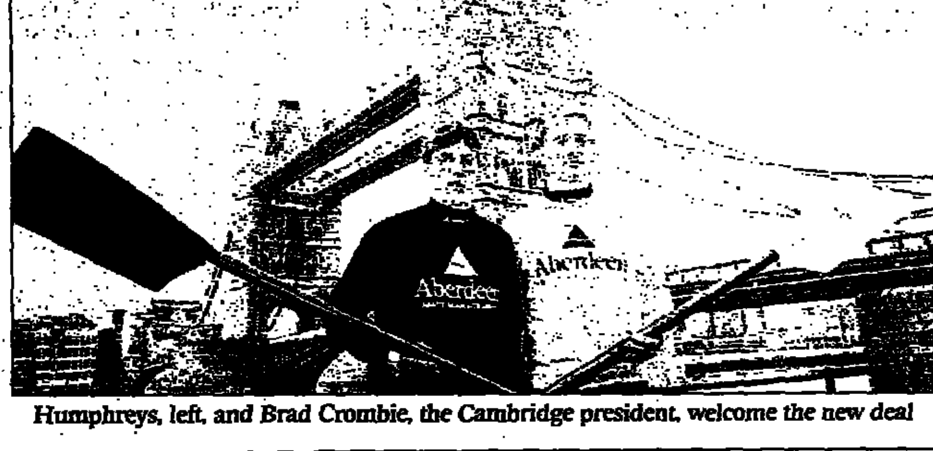
Aberdeen Asset Management manages investments in excess of £14 billion and is quoted on both the London and Singapore stock exchanges. Martin Gilbert, the chief executive, said: "We are among the top ten unit trust sellers in the country, but our competitors are household names. We want more awareness and we think the Boat Race can give it to us."

Awareness could come from an event that attracts 250,000 to the banks of the River Thames, a domestic television audience of six million and a huge international following, with a potential 400 million people watching in 160 countries.

Moves towards the sponsorship announced yesterday began only just before Christmas when Fred Carr, an Oxford Blue in 1966, when he was a crew-mate of Clegg, mentioned the sponsorship search to an Aberdeen Asset Management employee. This set the ball rolling swiftly, in Clegg's words, to "a compatible sponsor that we can live with".

The new sponsor has no intention of moving the Boat Race to Scotland. "It's too cold up there," Gilbert said. Cambridge, with six wins in a row, will race Oxford on the usual course on April 3.

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Humphreys, left, and Brad Crombie, the Cambridge president, welcome the new deal

ICE SKATING

Yagudin left with ground to make up

FROM ANGELA COURT IN PRAGUE

THE European figure skating championships commenced yesterday with the men's qualifying rounds. Thirty-five men from 29 nations performed their free programme and there were surprises, as is usual at these events.

Beforehand, all of the medals seemed certain to go to Russia on Thursday night, but a technically poor performance from Alexei Yagudin, the world champion and defending European champion, put him in third place in his group behind lesser-known skaters from France and Germany. The free programme is now worth 20 per cent of the final score.

Yagudin, 18, made three uncharacteristic mistakes. A fall on a triple axel jump, and a doubling out on two later triple jumps left him shaking his head. "I don't know what happened," he said. "It wasn't nerves, and my warm-up was good. I didn't expect to skate so badly."

His compatriots, Alexei Urmanov, 25, the 1994 Olympic champion, and Evgeni Plushenko, 16, who recently won the Russian national championship, had mixed fortunes. Plushenko was outstanding, pulling off eight triple jumps and a quadruple toe loop with apparent ease. He received marks up to 5.9 for both technical merit and presentation to win his group comfortably.

Urmanov, who missed all of last season with a groin injury, fell heavily on his opening quadruple toe loop jump and over-rotated a triple lutz to finish second behind Plushenko.

Until last summer, all three Russian competitors were coached by Alexei Mishin, in St Petersburg. Then Yagudin transferred to the United States to train with Tatiana Tarasova, who steered another Russian, Ilia Kulik, to Olympic gold last season.

Now out to show his worth under Tarasova's guidance, Yagudin cannot afford further errors if he is to retain the title.

Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson, the British competitors, survived the cut and qualified to skate in tonight's short programme.

Wilson, making his return to competition after a year of injury, skated tentatively, though. His triple jumps were less than secure, but strong spins and classic presentation gave him eighth place in the first group.

Shorten, the British champion, doubled two intended triples and fell on a triple lutz, but attacked his programme with vigour and finished fourteenth in the second group.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: AAA Indoor Championships: Senior men: Heptathlon: 1, D Ladejo (Belgrave) 5,607pts; 2, J Quarry (Harrow) 5,563; 3, J Naughton (Havering Mayesbrook, holder) 5,232; 4, M Douglas (Belgrave) 5,230; 5, S Bonnett (City of Stoke) 5,191; 6, S Garland (Liverpool Pembroke Sefton) 4,878. **Senior women: Pentathlon:** 1, D Bennett (Epsom & Ewell) 4,110pts; 2, J Holman (Peterborough) 4,087; 3, K Jury (Wakefield) 4,028; 4, L Buxton (Brighton & Hove) 3,514; 5, N Butler (Windsor, Slough & Eton) 3,372; 6, S Foley (Ulford) 3,368.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham Bullets 98 London Towers 88; Chester Jets 58 Milton Keynes Lions 88.

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	21	20	1	40
Manchester Giants	21	18	3	36
Derby Storm	20	13	7	26
Thames Valley Tigers	22	13	9	26
London Towers	21	12	9	24
Newcastle Eagles	21	12	9	24
Birmingham Bullets	22	12	10	24
Greater London	19	9	10	18
Leicester Riders	21	7	14	14
Edinburgh Rocks	18	5	13	10
Milton Keynes Lions	19	5	14	10
Chester Jets	21	4	17	8
Worthing Bears	20	3	17	6

BIATHLON

ANTERSELVA, Italy: World Cup event: Men (12.5k pursuit): 1, O E Bjoerndalen (Nor) 35min 43.8sec (3 penalties); 2, C Heymann (Ger) at 11.3sec (1); 3, H Hanevold (Nor) 15.6 (1); 4, P Rostovtsev (Russ) 16.0 (1); 5, F Luck (Ger) 20.2 (1); 6, V Sashurin (Bela) 20.8 (2). **Women** (10k pursuit): 1, C Niogret (Fr) 33min 52.6sec (2); 2, M Forsberg (Swe) at 35.1sec (2); 3, O Petrova (Ukr) 58.6 (4); 4, A Akhatova (Russ) 1:25.1 (1); 5, U Disl (Ger) 1:44.9 (4); 6, N Lemesh (Ukr) 1:51.4 (3). **Leading overall World Cup positions** (after 13 events): **Men:** 1, Bjoerndalen 257pts; 2, Luck 256; 3, Rostovtsev 248; 4, S Fischer (Ger) 221; 5, R Poiree (Fr) 220; 6, R Gross (Ger) 208. **Women:** 1, Forsberg 310pts; 2, Disl 300; 3, Niogret 257; 4, O Zubrilova (Ukr) 211; 5, S G Petter-Memm (Ger) 204; 6, Akhatova 178.

BOWLS

ENGLISH WOMEN'S INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Zone finals: Darlington bt Stanley 80-65; Cumbria bt York 94-66; Leicester bt Dunholme 98-54, Desborough (N) bt March 85-75, Diss bt Acle 89-60; Colchester bt Ipswich 93-64, The Lawns bt Tye Green 81-80; Desborough (M) bt Cherwell 89-69; Swindon Westlecot bt Erdington Court 86-65. Croydon bt King George Field 87-80; Egham bt Whiteknights 78-68; Angel (Tonbridge) bt Prince Arthur 89-74; Westden bt Graftons 105-49; Atherley bt Dolphon 95-48; Northavon bt Yeovil 81-69; West Cornwall bt Torbay 75-63.

CRICKET

GWALIOR (final day of three): Pakistan 334-6 and 272 (Imzamam-ul-Haq 96, Salim Malik 122; Ganesh 4-78, Shukla 4-36); India A 276 and 111-6 (Ramesh 58). Match drawn.

AUCKLAND (second day of three): Auckland Emerging Players 209 (R King 66; G R Bridge 4-38); England Under-19 277 (I N Flanagan 93, M A Gough 73; S Silva 4-48).

GOLF

PALM SPRINGS: Bob Hope Classic: Leading final scores (US unless stated). 334: D Duval 70, 71, 64, 70, 69. 335: S Pate 66, 70, 64, 69, 66. 336: J Huston 63, 73, 71, 63, 66. 339: B Estes 68, 71, 65, 67, 68, F Funk 65, 68, 68, 69, 71. 340: S Kendall 67, 73, 66, 64, 70. 341: J Maggert 69, 72, 66, 68, 66.

NAPLES, Florida: LPGA Memorial: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 272: M Mallon 69, 67, 69, 67. 273: H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 68, 68, 68; K Robbins 69, 68, 68, 68. **Other score:** 277: L Davies (GB) 67, 73, 68, 69.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell Bees 3 Ayr Scottish Eagles 1, Cardiff Devils 3 London Knights 0; Sheffield Steelers 4 Nottingham Panthers 0.

	P	W	L	D	OL	F	A	Pts
Manchester	27	21	4	1	1	104	55	44
Cardiff	28	19	7	0	2	100	67	40
Nottingham	28	16	10	0	2	98	92	34
Bracknell	28	12	12	1	3	91	98	28
Ayr	26	11	11	3	1	80	85	26
Sheffield	28	10	13	3	2	82	93	25
London	30	8	17	2	3	91	134	21
Newcastle	27	8	16	2	1	68	100	19

ICE SKATING

PRAGUE: European figure skating championships: Men: Group A: 1, L Tobel (Fr) 4 factored placings; 2, A Vlascenko (Ger) 8; 3, A Yagudin (Russ) 1.2; 4, I Dinev (Bul) 1.8; 5, S Vidrai (Hun) 2.0; 6, S Lindemann (Ger) 2.4; 7, R Grzegorczyk (Pol) 2.8; 8, N Wilson (GB) 3.2; 9, R Kazmir (Slovakia) 3.6; 10, L Rakowski (Cz) 4.0; 11, M Lemenen (Fin) 4.4; 12, J Cejvan (Slovenia) 4.8; 13, G Chiper (Rom) 5.2; 14, A Dolfini (It) 5.6; 15, F Siler (Swe) 6.0. **Group B:** 1, Y Plushenko (Russ) 0.4; 2, A Urmanov (Russ) 8; 3, Y Pliuta (Ukr) 1.2; 4, V Danilenko (Ukr) 1.6; 5, V Restencourt (Fr) 2.0; 6, S Rylov (Armenia) 2.4; 7, V Murvandze (Georgia) 2.8; 8, P Meier (Switz) 3.2; 9, J R Jensen (Den) 3.6; 10, M Hemits (Est) 4.0; 11, S Telenkov (Lat) 4.4; 12, M Tylesen (Den) 4.8; 13, P Schmit (Lux) 5.2; 14, C Shorten (GB) 5.6; 15, H Turlakov (Bul) 6.0. *All qualify for short programme.*

RUGBY UNION

HONG KONG SEVENS: Draw: Pool A: Fiji, Scotland, Tonga, Thailand. **Pool B:** South Africa, Canada, United States, China. **Pool C:** Australia, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan. **Pool D:** New Zealand, Ireland, Hong Kong, Croatia. **Pool E:** France, Argentina, Morocco, Sri Lanka. **Pool F:** Western Samoa, South Korea, Uruguay, Singapore. *To be played March 26 to 28.*

SQUASH

NEW YORK: Tournament of Champions: First round: D Harris (Eng) bt G Ryding (Can) 15-5, 15-13, 15-6; R Eyles (Aus) bt T Garner (Eng) 15-9, 8-15, 15-8, 15-13; S Boswell (Aus) bt A Khan (Pak) 15-17, 17-15, 15-6, 15-11; P Johnson (Eng) bt P Price (Aus) 15-6, 9-15, 15-6, 15-7; A Gough (Wales) bt S Casteleyn (Bel) 15-6, 15-11, 15-4; D Jenson (Aus) bt A Shabana (Egypt) 15-9, 15-5, 15-13; A Barada (Egypt) bt A Hill (Aus) 4-15, 15-9, 9-15, 15-7, 15-13.

SNOOKER

CARDIFF: Regal Welsh Open: First round: S Bingham (Eng) bt T Drago (Malta) 5-0; W Snaddon (Scot) bt D Henry (Scot) 5-2; P Sweeney (Eng) bt M Clark (Eng) 5-4; M Dunn (Eng) bt M King (Eng) 5-3; J Wattana (Thai) bt R Milkins (Eng) 5-4; P Hunter (Eng) bt I McCulloch (Scot) 5-4.

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, January 30
Coupon no, fixture, forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Blackburn v Tottenham 1
2 Coventry v Liverpool X
3 Everton v Nott'm F 2
4 Middlesbro v Leicester 1
5 Newcastle v Aston Villa 2
6 Sheff Wed v Derby X
7 Southampton v Leeds 2
8 Wimbledon v W Ham X

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

9 Bolton v Norwich 1
10 Crewe v Sheff Utd 1
11 Huddersf'ld v Bristol C 1
12 Ipswich v Port Vale 1
13 Oxford v Barnsley 2
14 QPR v Portsmouth 1
15 Stockport v Wolves X
16 Swindon v Bury 2
17 Tranmere v C Palace 1
18 Watford v Sunderland 2
19 West Brom v Grimsby X

SECOND DIVISION

20 Blackpool v Macclesf'd 1
21 Bristol R v Colchester 1
22 Chest'field v Wycombe 1
23 Fulham v North'pton 1
24 Lincoln v Burnley 2
25 Luton v Bournemouth 2
26 Millwall v Gillingham 2
27 Notts Co v Reading X
28 Walsall v Wigan 1
29 Wrexham v Preston 2
30 York v Oldham 2

THIRD DIVISION

31 Barnet v Swansea 1
32 Brighton v Peterboro' X
33 Cambridge v Carlisle 1
34 Cardiff v Brentford 1
35 Exeter v Plymouth 1
36 Halifax v Rotherham 2
37 Hull v Shrewsbury X
38 Leyton O v Darlington 1
39 Mansfield v Chester 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

40 Aberdeen v Rangers 2
41 Dundee U v Dunf'mline 1
42 Hearts v Motherwell X
43 Kilmarnock v Dundee 1

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

44 Airdrie v Hibernian X
45 G Morton v Stranraer 1
46 Hamilton v Falkirk 2
47 Raith v Clydebank 2
48 St Mirren v Ayr 2

SECOND DIVISION

49 Arbroath v Clyde 2

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Coventry, Sheffield Wednesday, Wimbledon, Stockport, West Brom, Notts County, Brighton, Hull, Hearts, Airdrie.

BEST DRAWS: Coventry, Wimbledon, Stockport, West Brom, Hull.

AWAYS: Nottingham Forest, Leeds, Sunderland, Burnley, Gillingham.

HOMES: Blackburn, Bolton, Huddersfield, Tranmere, Blackpool, Chesterfield, Fulham, Cambridge, Exeter.

FIXED ODDS: Homes: Tranmere, Blackpool, Chesterfield, Exeter, Kilmarnock. **Aways:** Leeds, Burnley, Gillingham. **Draws:** Coventry, Stockport, Hull.

■ Vince Wright

☐ Vince Wright's three fixed-odds draws selections were all correct last week

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Worthington Cup
Semi-final, first leg
Sunderland v Leicester (7.45)

Nationwide League
Second division
Bournemouth v Preston (7.45)
Fulham v Oldham (7.45)
Wigan v Bristol Rovers (7.45) P
Macclesfield v Millwall (7.45)

Third division
Peterborough v Hull (7.45)

Nationwide Conference
Hayes v Dover (7.45)
Rushden and Diamonds v Kidderminster (7.45)
Yeovil v Forest Green (7.45)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern section, second round
Rochdale v Stoke (7.45)
Quarter-finals
Hartlepool v Lincoln (7.45)
Carlisle v Wigan (7.45)

Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Ayr

Second division
Forfar v Clyde (7.45)
Stirling v Queen Of South

Third division
Cowdenbeath v Brechin
East Stirling v Dumbarton
Queen's Park v *Stenhousemuir*

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: UniBond League v FA XI (at Stalybridge Celtic).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hastings v Bath City (7.45); Merthyr v Gloucester.

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Romford v Staines. **Second division:** Abingdon Town v Hungerford, Banstead v Barking; Chalfont St Peter v Northwood, Horsham v Thame Utd; Windsor and Eton v Bedford T; Witham v Harlow.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Gillingham v Leicester. **Third round replay:** Walsall v Tottenham. **Fourth round:** Aston Villa v Huddersfield; Everton v Swindon; Ipswich v York; Scunthorpe v Middlesbrough.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Mansfield YA v Notts County YA (12.0); Port Vale YA v Shrewsbury YA (1.0); West Brom YA v Northampton YA (12.0). **North West Conference:** Tranmere YA v Oldham YA (11.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leeds v Nottingham Forest (7.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Caernarfon.

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership
First division
Richmond v Leicester (8.0)

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: First Round, second leg: Orrell v Sale (7.15)

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Neath v Canada (7.00); Pontypridd v Georgia (7.00); **Pool B:** Ebbw Vale v Gauteng Falcons (7.00), Llanelli v Romania (7.00)

Duval produces theatrical performance in the round

Mel Webb on the golfer who could not stand the thought of reaching 60

THIS time, the face of stone had to crack. This time, the legendary stoicism did not come to the rescue. This time, the thin, pursed line that is usually formed by his lips broke into the broadest of smiles. David Duval does not make a habit of revealing to the world what passion beats under his carapace of cool, but this time even Mr Taciturn allowed himself a whoop of joy. It is not every day of a man's life that he creates a moment of sporting history.

Duval, 27, had played well enough for four of the five days of the Bob Hope Classic in California last week, but when he climbed on to the first tee at La Quinta on Sunday afternoon, he was seven strokes off the lead with only 18 holes in which to make up the leeway. He had thought about what he might need to make a real impression in the final shake-up and arrived at the conclusion that he might need a 59 to achieve it.

People just don't score 59s to win leading professional tournaments. In fact, people just don't score 59s, full stop. Only twice in the history of the US PGA Tour had anybody broken 60, and never to win. That is what Duval had to do. So he went out there and did it.

There is not much doubt that, for all Tiger Woods' continued presence at the top of the rankings, for more than a year Duval could present very strong credentials for recognition as the hottest player in world golf. He won four tournaments last year and continued in similar vein by taking the first event of this season, too.

But 59? Surely not. The last man to break 60 on one of the leading tours of the world was Chip Beck, in the third round of the Las Vegas International in 1991, and it is necessary to go back to 1977 to find the only other occasion that it has happened — Al Geiberger in the second round of the Memphis Classic. Duval is pretty cold-blooded, but although he may have thought that 59 was what he wanted to win the 90-hole tournament, 59 cannot be what he honestly expected to get.

He got a clue that something special might be about to happen when he had birdies at each of the first three holes. More followed on the 5th and 9th to put him back into the thick of things again. He was getting closer; but it could hardly last. It could. And did. And then some.

Having played the first nine holes in 31 strokes, he turned the return journey into a triumphal march. There is a blessed state of grace into which sportspeople occasionally go, and while in this transcendental condition, they are capable of superhuman deeds. The Zone, they call it; the Zone welcomed Duval as a visitor in the last nine holes of his round.

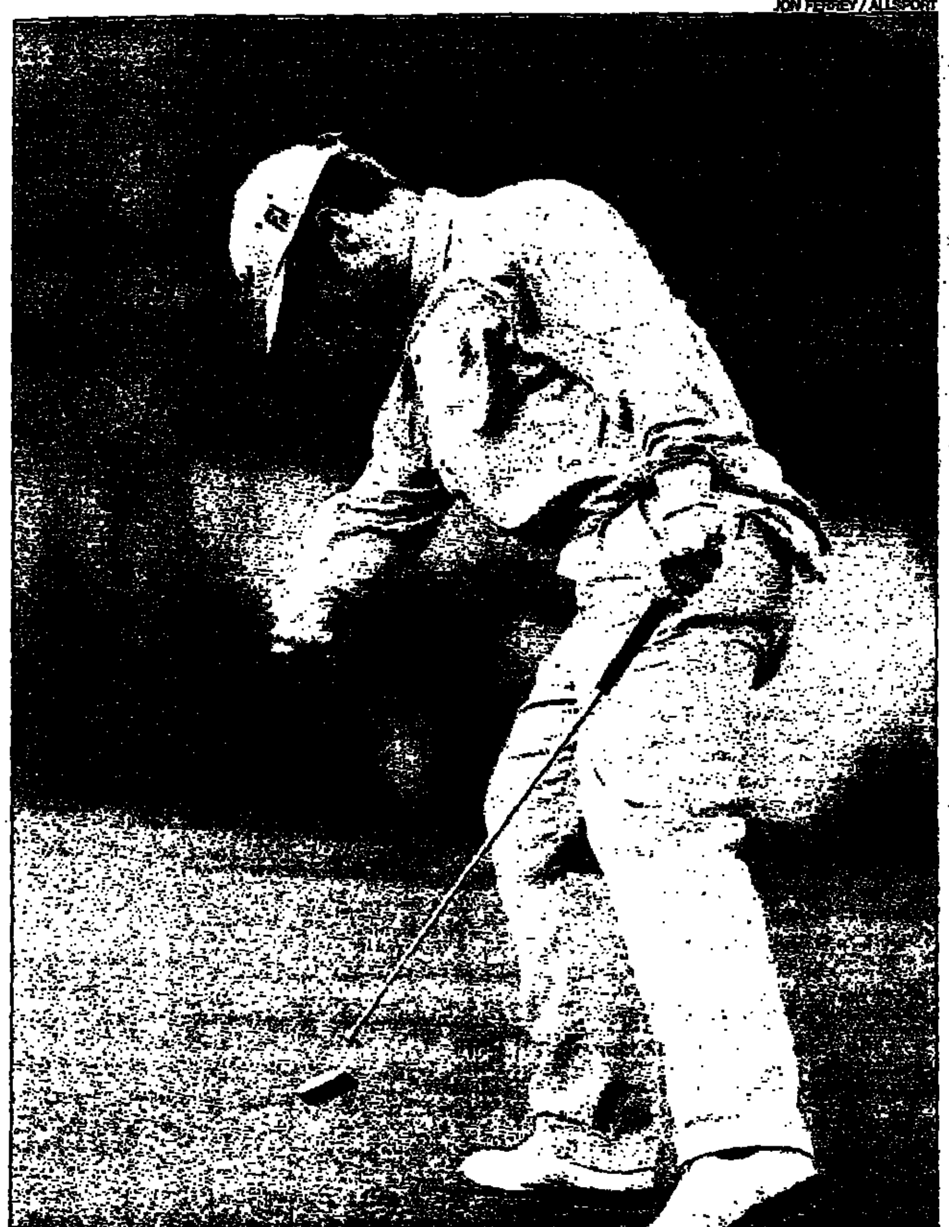
Some time before Duval finished his round, it began to dawn on him that the 59 that had been the distant, spectral vision overnight, might just, remarkably, be within reach after all. He was 11 under par for the first 16 holes and needed to pick up two shots on the last two to break 60, but he left a 20ft putt for a birdie 5ft short on the 17th. Somebody had lit the torch back there on the 1st tee — now it appeared as though it had been suddenly extinguished.

It was time, among all the coruscation, for a really big closing number. He hit an enormous drive on the 543-yard par-five, then put a five-iron to 6ft. Six feet for an eagle, 6ft for 59, 6ft for a little piece of immortality. Duval's face was a blank canvas as he looked at his line, impassive as he addressed the ball, calm as he hit it. And then went gently mad as it rolled into the hole.

It brought him victory by a shot, took his earnings in two events this year to $1,008,000 (about £630,000) and was his ninth win in his past 28 tournaments. Time for the quiet man to indulge in a little self-aggrandisement. "I'm playing quite well," he said. Now, now, David — no boasting.

Results, page 49

JON FERREY / ALLSPORT



Duval is exultant after sinking the putt that gave him an eagle on the 18th and completed his remarkable round

DAVID DUVAL'S CLASSIC 59 SHOT-BY-SHOT

1 (426 yards, par 4): Driver, pitching-wedge to 5ft, one putt — birdie.
2 (514 yards, par 5): Driver, four-iron, sand-wedge to 3ft, one putt — birdie.
3 (180 yards, par 3): Six-iron to 3ft, one putt — birdie.
4 (396 yards, par 4): Two-iron, nine-iron to 15ft, two putts — par.
5 (233 yards, par 3): Five-iron to 5ft, one putt — birdie.
6 (562 yards, par 5): Driver, five-iron, sand-wedge to 30ft, two putts — par.
7 (439 yards, par 4): Two-iron, seven-iron to 40ft, two putts — par.
8 (358 yards, par 4): Three-wood, sand-wedge, three-iron chip to 6ft, one putt — par.
9 (451 yards, par 4): Three-wood, eight-iron to 8ft, one putt — birdie.
OUT: 31

10 (453 yards, par 4): Three-wood, sand-wedge to 4ft, one putt — birdie.
11 (512 yards, par 5): Driver, four-iron, pitching-wedge to 4ft, one putt — birdie.
12 (207 yards, par 3): Six-iron to 2ft, one putt — birdie.
13 (447 yards, par 4): Three-wood, seven-iron to 12ft, two putts — par.
14 (569 yards, par 5): Driver into bunker, five-iron, sand-wedge to 10ft, one putt — birdie.
15 (156 yards, par 3): Eight-iron to 1ft, one putt — birdie.
16 (364 yards, par 4): Two-iron, sand-wedge to six inches, one putt — birdie.
17 (130 yards, par 3): Nine-iron to 20ft, two putts — par.
18 (543 yards, par 5): Driver, five-iron to 6ft, one putt — eagle.
IN: 28. TOTAL: 59.

Linford gets the needle and is out to make a point

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF a new advertising campaign is to be believed, Linford Christie has taken up embroidery. "Now anyone can learn to do anything", it says. But why should Christie bother learning new pursuits? Clearly, he has not forgotten how to sprint.

The needle from his training group, rather than the one in his hand in the advert, has prompted Christie, at 38, to run this weekend in his first championship competition since the 1996 Olympic Games. After his first international race for 18 months on Sunday, he is the favourite in Birmingham to win his tenth AAA national indoor title.

In Karlsruhe, Germany, Christie recorded 6.57sec for 60 metres to finish second to Marc Blume, the 1996 European indoor champion, from Germany. Remarkably, it is the fastest start Christie has made to an indoor season.

THOMAS GILLIAR

Close call: Christie is edged out by Blume in Karlsruhe

Having put his efforts into coaching since his retirement in 1997, Christie was out-of-season training in Lanzarote with his athletes when their banter struck home. "They told me my days are long gone and I am a sucker for a challenge," Christie said.

The 1992 Olympic 100 metres champion has been an instant success as a coach. When his reign as European 100 metres champion came to an end undefended in Budapest last year, Darren Campbell, whom he coaches, succeeded him.

Before Christie's appearance in Karlsruhe, Campbell had said: "I believe we have all moved on and Linford does not have a hope of running the times he used to."

While Christie may still be a tenth of a second off his European record for 60 metres, 6.57sec puts him ahead of Jason Livingston at the top of the British 1999 rankings. It is perhaps as well that Campbell has opted for the 200 metres next weekend.

"Linford is in good shape but, if I was in it, I would win it," Campbell said of Birmingham. "I am using the 200 metres as a training exercise. Linford is taking my place [in the 60 metres]." No doubt, though, the commercial forces at work will ensure that the two meet on the circuit this season.

Is he really back because his training group dared him, or is it more that he craves the limelight again? For Embroidery Man, this could be a stitch in time.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

COCKING PIECE
(b) A short board, nailed to each common rafter at the eaves, in order to give a slightly flatter slope than the rest of the roof.

LANGE LYZEN
(a) "Long Elizas", figures of women, copied from Chinese porcelain by European porcelain painters (nearly always in blue), in which height and slenderness have been exaggerated.

HAOMA
(c) In Zoroastrianism, the sacred plant and drink made from it by pounding. Hasoma is personified as a divinity, who bestows vital qualities and even immortality. The word comes from the Sanskrit Soma.

HALTIA
(b) A Balti-Finnish domestic spirit who oversees the household and protects it from harm.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxf7! Nxf7; 2. Re8+ Kc7; 3. Rle7 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Fiction reflecting fact

The Bill
ITV, 8.00pm

Bent coppers are not as rare in police shows as they used to be (fiction sadly reflecting life) but they are usually flushed out and dealt with. DS Beech (Billy Murray) of *The Bill*, however, has been on the take for some time and while he has come close to being rumbled, so far the scriptwriters have allowed him to survive. It is a delicate matter. If Beech goes on taking bungs from villains, the series could be accused of condoning police corruption. If he is exposed, *The Bill* loses one of its best characters. Beech is at it again tonight, but this time his colleague DS Daly (Ray Ashcroft) is on to him. Since there has never been any love lost between the two, this latest confrontation has a special edge and redeems one of those convoluted plots which have sometimes marred the show since it went back to 60-minute episodes.

Great Railway Journeys
BBC2, 9.00pm

There is a double helping of Rick Stein on BBC2 tonight, for in addition to his cookery series he is also the railway traveller, crossing Mexico from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic. His reason for choosing Mexico is that he came to the country 30 years ago as a young backpacker and fell in love with it, not least for its cooking. Food makes regular appearances in the programme but there is far more to Stein than being the only Cornish fish cook on television. He enjoys rail travel for a start, even if he worries about the state of the Mexican tracks. He is also a fan of Hollywood westerns, many of which were shot at one of his stopping places, Durango, where John Wayne had a ranch. And he is shrewd about the Mexican character, in which he admires an ability to get along without rules and regulations.

Station X
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The story of wartime code breaking at Bletchley Park continues by charting how the supposedly impenetrable German Enigma codes were successfully cracked to the enormous benefit of the Allied war effort. With the odds against doing it many times longer than winning the National Lottery, it took very bright minds, but Bletchley Park had some of the best. They included Alan Turing, remembered as an eccentric genius and, significantly in view of later revelations of the homosexuality which wrecked his career, very shy of women. Turing's achievement was to discover the secret of the German naval codes at a time when U-boats were causing terrible damage to Allied shipping. But it needed the chance discovery of a book of code settings on a U-boat captured off Iceland to complete the job.

John Pilger presents an updated version of the *The Timor Conspiracy* (ITV, 10.40pm)

The Timor Conspiracy
ITV, 10.40pm

When the original version of John Pilger's film was transmitted five years ago, the ITV helpline received more than 4,000 calls a minute, refuting perhaps the notion that East Timor is too far away for us to care about. Pilger's polemic, for it is nothing less, has a double target. On the one hand, he is condemning what he claims to be the genocide carried out by the Indonesian dictatorship on the people of East Timor after its brutal occupation of the former Portuguese colony in 1975. On the other hand, Pilger accuses the Governments of Britain, the United States and Australia of complicity and connivance. Britain is charged with having been, and still being, a principal supplier of arms to the Indonesian regime.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Coming Alive
Radio 4, 11.30am

There is a contemporary flavour to this new six-part series by Jim Eldridge, best remembered for *King Street Junior*, which starred Karl Howman. Writer and actor combine again here, with Howman playing Terry King, a conman whom we meet on the last day of his latest prison sentence looking forward to fresh air at Grove Hill Farm, where he is sent as part of a rehabilitation programme. Unfortunately for King, Grove Hill turns out to be a crumbling project on a North London estate, where King and a social worker, played by Phyllis Logan, try to breathe life into the centre. Much of the half-absorbed learning that King has gleaned from working in the prison library comes into play, as do some of his more nefarious past habits.

New Healers
Radio 4, 9.00pm

Genetic engineering has received vast publicity via such wonders as Dolly the sheep, but the impression remains that not many people have actually been helped by the process. The problem identified in this programme is that, while scientists have found ways to alter the DNA of individual cells, they have not been able to do so on a large enough scale to change the way the body functions in terms of disease eradication. Tonight's programme suggests that a second wave of research may have brought success closer. In Edinburgh, scientists are hoping to help cystic fibrosis victims by introducing new genes into their lungs, and at Hammersmith Hospital, London, there is hope of a cancer vaccine through gene therapy.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Clive Warren. Chart hits **8.00** Steve Lamacq **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel. The best tracks **12.00am** The Breezeblock **2.00** Emma B **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Our Pet: Fifty Years in Showbiz. Petula Clark **10.00** Susan Jeffreys (4/6) **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra. A full round-up and the main sports bulletin of the day **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Sunderland v Leicester City in tonight's first leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final **10.00** Late Night Live. News and topical discussion, with Nick Robinson **1.00am** Up All Night. Rhod Sharp presents a preview of the day's papers

VIRGIN

6.30am Danny Baker **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks and Nick Ferrari **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley's Drivetime **5.00** The SportZone **7.00** Eubank's People **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** Plays in Focus: Henry IV Part one **9.20** Inspiration! **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Short Story **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World News **7.05** Discovery **7.30** Science Feedback **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Women Who Dared To Speak **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week. Music delivered with that notable Irish wit and charm; Henry Kelly hosts the morning on Classic FM. **8.10** School Run. **9.00** The Hall of Fame Hour **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Finzi: Clarinet Concerto in C minor **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Brahms: Academic Festival Overture. Sibelius: Violin Concerto in D minor. Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique **11.00** Mann at Night. Music through till the wee small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Finzi: Clarinet Concerto in C minor (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny on the standing of the 1999 Classical Awards from Cannes, France
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Kuhlau (Overture "Lulu"); 9.08 Schubert (Piano Sonata in E, D459); 9.37 Mozart (D'Elisio in sen m'attendi); 9.45 Bloch (Schelomo); 10.08 Prokofiev (Suite "Lieutenant Kije") Chicago SO/Claudio Abbado
10.30 Artist of the Week Midori talks to Joan Bakewell
11.00 Sound Stories Elizabeth I
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Taverner
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from Belfast. Mozart (Piano Trio in E flat, K498); Kurtag (Homage to Schumann); Francaix (Trio)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier and Charles Mackerras. Peter Donohoe (piano). Bridge (Suite "The Sea"); Olione (The Fiddler); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)
4.00 Voices Iain Burnside introduces songs by French composers reacting against the 19th-century romantic tradition. Satie (Trois poemes d'amour); Chabrier (Pastorale des cochons roses); Milhaud (Catalogue des fleurs); Poulenc (Quatre poemes de Guillaume Apollinaire); Roussel (Jazz dans la nuit); Satie (Trois melodies. Honegger) Rosenthal (Chansons de Monsieur Bleu) (r)
4.45 Music Machine How a violin is made
5.00 In Tune The Tanztheater Wuppertal dance company. Weber (Clarinet Concerto in E flat)
7.30 Performance on 3 Handel (Il Parnasso in festa)
9.55 Postscript Sir Stephen Tumim introduces excerpts from George Orwell's essay *Politics and the English Language*
10.20 Night Visions The first recordings of this recent piece by Matthew Taylor — played by the Campbell Ensemble
10.45 Night Waves Richard Coles talks to leading South African poet and journalist Antjie Krog
11.30 Jazz Notes Blue Note records
12.00am Composer of the Week: Purcell (Welcome to all the Pleasures, Z339); (From Silent Shades, Z370); (They That Go Down to the Sea in Ships, Z57); (If Prayers and Tears, Z380); (Chacony in G minor, Z730); (Rejoice in the Lord Always, Z49) (r)
1.00 Through the Night With Donald Macleod. 1.00 Music by Philidor, Bach, Cima, Kindermann and Leclair. 2.20 Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K545) 2.40 Hetu (Trumpet Concerto). 3.00-5.00 Schools (3.15 Time to Move. 3.35 Let's Make a Story. 3.50 Drama 4.10 In the News Special Edition. 4.30 Hop, Skip and Jump. 4.45 Anns e'bhad. 5.10 Mozart (Piano Concerto No 17 in G, K453)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today With Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 No Triumph, No Tragedy Disabled achievers from the US talk frankly with Peter White (4/6)
9.30 The New Recruit A trainee florist discusses the meaning of the red rose with his employer (3/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Victorian Internet David Rintoul reads from Tom Standage's social and scientific study of the electric telegraph (2/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Nature Starlings (r)
11.30 Coming Alive New series. Jim Eldridge's tale of how two people fall in love. See Choice
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News
12.04 You and Yours Consumer news
1.00 The World at One With Nick Clarke
1.30 Full Orchestra Leading orchestras compete in a dazzling display of musical knowledge
2.00 The Archers Eddie smells trouble (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Elemental Tales The Mistral, by Hattie Naylor. A little girl born to the sound of the mistral wind has a profound effect on other lives as she grows up. Kim Wall stars
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Eddie Mair assesses listeners' opinions of a topical issue
3.30 The Vale Hedgehogs get up to mischief (6/8) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates Winston Chirchill's history of Britain
4.00 The Learning Curve Life-changing possibilities
4.30 Shop Talk Business matters
5.00 PM With Clare English and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Cheese Shop Presents Comedy sketches with Gerard Foster, Dave Lamb, Gordon Southern, Tim Verrinder, Ben Ward and Richard Webb. The Butter Factor
7.00 The Archers David finds life is all a matter of taste
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson investigates the relationship between piano teacher and pupil
7.45 Inner Voices Part two of Rikkie Beadle Blair's drama Finders Keepers, with David Squire. Broadcast earlier within Woman's Hour. Finders Keepers (r)
8.00 File on 4 Mark Whitaker investigates the concern held by US doctors over allergies to prescribed medicines
8.40 In Touch Peter White with news for visually impaired people
9.00 The New Healers Breakthroughs in the science of gene therapy. See Choice
9.30 No Triumph, No Tragedy Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight With Anne McKenzie
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets By John Mortimer. Terry Fitton meets the mysterious owner of Hartcombe's local independent bookshop
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Patrick and Maureen Maybe Music Experience The troubled couple decide to separate, and present their final show from different studios. Patrick Barlow, Imelda Staunton and Kevin Eldon star. Last in series
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Update from Westminster
11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures Weekly guide to films and film-going
12.00am News
12.30 The Late Book: Round Ireland with a Fridge Tony Hawks recounts his journey across the Emerald Isle with only a fridge as company
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.50am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.

Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Damp it may be, but it's not on the rise

According to **Raising The Roof** (BBC2), the walls of your house can be wetter than Dale Winton and, chances are, you still don't need to pay anybody hundreds — let alone thousands — of pounds to put in a chemical damp-proof course because it's extremely unlikely that you've got rising damp. This leaves just one nagging question in your mind: why aren't there more such programmes on television, lifting the lid on other unpleasant things that we have all long suspected were at best unnecessary, such as self-assessment tax returns, *Supermarket Sweep*, large parts of South Dakota, and the Rev Ian Paisley?

Doubts about rising damp set in the minute you set foot in Venice. Here is a city that is still standing after hundreds of years, and after thousands of floods. On the several occasions that I have visited Venice, not once have I seen a boat chugging down a canal bearing a sign saying, "Gino's Damp-Proofing — we treata de wetta rotta and de dry rotta. No pallazzo too small!" In all the biographies of Casanova, you never once read of a time when he had to disappoint a lover on account of rising damp: "Can't come over to pleasure you this morning, love. I've got a man from San Marco Damp-Proofing coming round between 8am and 1pm to give me an estimate. He couldn't be more specific, what with all the visits he has to make."

The man we have to thank for opening our eyes is Mike Parrett, who works for Lewisham council as a damp-checker. "In the last nine years," he told us, seated, for some reason, on a boat, "I've not found a single case of rising damp in any of the properties I've tested. I've tested literally thousands." Often he solved the damp by installing proper heating and ventilation. At other times, an existing damp course had been "bridged", enabling ground-water to bypass the damp course. Parrett is so sceptical that you could no more easily persuade him that Paddy Ashdown's decision to retire as leader of the *Liberal Democrats* will make a measurable difference to British politics than you could that a British house has rising damp.

Using the hidden camera technique he used to expose dodgy estate agents in the opening programme of the series, the presenter Paul Kenyon set up home in a wettish house that Parrett swore was not suffering from rising damp (there was leaky guttering, a blocked drain, a broken water pipe) and called in the professionals to sort out the problem. Nine estimates — to inject an un-needed chemical damp-proof course — ranged from £380 to well over £6,000. The companies Kenyon invited to survey the problem included some of the best-known names in the business. With luck their phones won't be ringing for a while.

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

Although Kenyon has the sort of boyish enthusiasm, and the boyish looks, that give the series the air of a particularly proficient school science project, he seems to be making a snappier job of old-fashioned investigation than many grown-up presenters are managing. Of course, you might fear even more for the damp-proofing companies if Oliver Walston ever gets it into his head to wash their dirty laundry in public.

For the past four weeks in his series **Against the Grain** (BBC2), Walston, a barley baron from Cambridgeshire, has been doing his best to avoid being invited to the National Farmers' Union annual ball ever again. Walston has ruffled the feathers of many farmers by highlighting the more preposterous lunacies of the common agricultural policy: under this scheme Britain's farmers have manoeuvred themselves into a position that coalminers and shipyard workers never worked out how to wangle, in which somebody would pay to keep them in business even if nobody wanted their coal or their ships — and even if this meant paying them billions of pounds *not* to mine coal or build ships at all. Walston, who gets a £180,000 subsidy cheque from Brussels every year, feels farmers should face the same market forces as hairdressers or dishwasher manufacturers, and that farming subsidies should be phased out.

This week he championed the use of agrochemicals and genetically engineered food as the only way to feed a world population that is growing by around 80 million people a year. Organically produced food may be the answer for those who can afford it — but what if you can't? Or don't want to? Walston doesn't think organic wheat or carrots taste any different, anyway. But even if they do, what role should the Government play in steering us towards them — any more than in steering us towards buying large, safe, expensive Bentleys rather than decrepit, rusty, cheap bangers?

It has been a thought-provoking, frequently provocative series. In the process Walston has proved himself to be a television natural, with just the right mixture of arrogance and charm to command the camera. With luck we'll be seeing him again — unless Brussels decides it's smarter to pay him *not* to make more television shows.

Patsy Palmer waits ages to have a baby, then two come along at once. No sooner has she given birth on *EastEnders* than she's giving birth all over again in *Love Story*, shown last night in Channel 4's **Shooting Gallery** series of shorts. *Love Story* was written and directed by her husband, Nick Love, who cast Palmer as a pregnant heroin addict living in a subterranean hell-hole, whose big-mouth boyfriend is too busy chasing his next fix to attend the birth. I think that was pretty much it, unless I missed something. It made *EastEnders* look as stylish as a Kurosawa film.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (27626)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (63355)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8207201)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5670171)
10.55 News; Regional News (T) (7546065)
11.00 Real Rooms (7556442)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7526201)
11.55 News; Regional News (T) (1759997)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (34794)
12.30 Wipeout (3008442)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (55890794)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (66442)
1.30 Regional News (86230201)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (65927317)
2.05 Ironside (r) (7203591)
2.55 Body Spies (9192882)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (9557686) **3.45** The Enchanted Lands: The Adventures of the Wishing Chair (9612249) **3.55** Hububb (8039930) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5382751) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (1262133) **5.00** Newsround (5009862) **5.10** Grange Hill (6149317)
5.33 Rewind (T) (645591)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (108256)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) (171)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (423)
7.00 Holiday Mary Nightingale visits Thailand, Dougie Vipond holidays in Cyprus, and Late Lunch presenters Mel and Sue go rock 'n' rolling in Burnham-on-Sea (T) (9220)
7.30 EastEnders The day of the inquest brings fresh tension (T) (807)

Julie Fitzjohn (Nicola Stephenson) could be in danger (8pm)

8.00 Holby City The staff of Darwin Ward struggle to prevent a deadly infection spreading beyond the confines of *Casualty's* famous hospital (T) (371336)
8.50 8.50 to Paddington Green Dominique arrives for her first day at Sylvia Young's Theatre School in Paddington (2/6) (T) (215249)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (2539)
9.30 Crimewatch UK 150 A search for a serial rapist in the West Midlands (T) (15201)
10.30 Paddington Green Locksmith Jason Osbourne gets into a fix at the airport, while transsexual prostitute Jackie McAuliffe books in for the final touches of her plastic surgery (T) (44171)
11.00 Ladies' Night Documentary unveiling the myths surrounding male strippers (r) (T) (679997)
11.55 Crimewatch UK (T) (452572)
12.05am The Honkers (1971) James Coburn plays an ageing rodeo showman whose marriage and career hit a rough patch. Directed by Steve Ihnat (740701)
1.40 Weather (8705973)
1.45 BBC News 24 (75699027)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Little Polar Bear (8893779) **7.05** Teletubbies (2572336) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (3451268) **7.55** Blue Peter (2868510) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9405688) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8777171) **8.50** Oakie Doke (8773355) **9.00** Daytime On Two: German Globo (7600626) **9.10** Working It Out (7680862) **9.25** Techno (6032442) **9.45** Numbertime (6887978) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (27065) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Watch (5446862) **10.45** Science Zone (3751997) **11.05** Space Ark (9224607) **11.15** Megamaths (1096881) **11.35** Words and Pictures (2869084) **11.50** History File (2846133) **12.10pm** English Express (4505133) **12.30** Working Lunch (50220)
1.00 Children's BBC: Oakie Doke (73218046)
1.10 The Great Picture Chase (r) (82107510)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show (65931510)
2.10 Sporting Greats (22754084)
2.40 News; Regional News (T) (8597249)
2.45 Westminster (T) (8170238)
3.25 News; Regional News (T) (2526510)
3.30 Woman on the Ledge (1990) Drama focusing on the close relationship between three female friends. Diedre Hall, Leslie Charleson and Colleen Zenk Pinter star. Directed by Chris Thomson (T) (75404)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights of the quarter-finals (6133)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (r) (T) (900930)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (180881)
7.10 The O Zone (T) (948510)
7.30 From the Edge A look at the implications of the Government's White Paper on Transport and an interview with wheelchair-bound war correspondent John Hockenberry (T) (249)
8.00 University Challenge (T) (6510)
8.30 Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey Rick visits a beach in Goa and prepares a spicy shark vindaloo before learning how to make an authentic dhal (T) (2317)
9.00 Great Railway Journeys Cornish fish cook Rick Stein crosses Mexico from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, travelling on the spectacular rail route through Copper Canyon and the Sierre Madre Mountains (T) (872201)

Francine Stock and Juliet Morris introduce the ceremony (9.50pm)

9.50 Whitbread Book Awards Live coverage of the literary awards ceremony from London's Brewery (T) (659713)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (766862)
11.15 Seinfeld (T) (790959)
11.40 The Larry Sanders Show (T) (192688)
11.55 Weather (404882)
12.00am Despatch Box (86447)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (30688)
6.00 GMTV (6339626)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3103997)
10.30 This Morning (T) (24770607)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (9997775)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (54046)
1.00 Shortland Street (51510)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (53317)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (2437881)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (459084)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2524152)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2521065)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2511688) **3.35** Rosie and Jim (8044862) **3.50** The Wombles (9697930) **4.00** Cow and Chicken (9129084) **4.25** Mike and Angelo (2037684) **4.50** How 2 (9700336)
5.10 A Country Practice (5250274)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (695355)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (659794)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (937084)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (269220)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (441404)
6.30 The West Tonight (T) (591)
7.00 Emmerdale Ned receives a tempting offer from old flame Dawn (T) (1688)
7.30 WEST: West Eye View (775)
7.30 WALES: Fishlock's Wild Tracks New series. Trevor Fishlock tours Wales on foot (T) (775)
8.00 The Bill The Drugs Squad reckon one of Meadows's men has been taking bribes after gangsters receive a tip-off about an impending raid, and their suspicions seem confirmed when a police informer is shot dead. (T) (5355)

Adrian Lukis and Annette Ekblom star as David and Patricia (9pm)

9.00 Peak Practice Andrew becomes personally involved in the heart rending case of an old soldier who has a terminal brain tumour diagnosed (4/13) (T) (5591)
10.00 News at Ten (T) (20591)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (555715)
10.40 CHOICE The Timor Conspiracy Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor (T) (867930)
11.40 WEST: Pleasure Guide (213510)
11.40 WALES: The Front Row Special Highlights from rugby's Challenge Trophy (910881)
12.10am Tales from the Crypt Collection Completed (5518621)
12.40 The Haunted Fishtank (5554911)
1.10 Highlander (r) (3806911)
2.10 Planet Rock Profiles (9501466)
2.35 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (7455263)
3.00 Judge Judy (31697355)
3.25 Football Extra (r) (4011282)
4.20 Coach Part one (95419398)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (5091911)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (6513423)
1.00 Headliners (51510)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9542978)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (450713)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2521065)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5250274)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (441404)
7.30-8.00 Landladies (775)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (555715)
11.40 Central Sport Special (483133)
12.50am The Haunted Fishtank (5551624)
1.20-2.15 Highlander (1358282)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '99 (6371701)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4857089)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (9997775) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6521442) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (51510) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9542978) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (450713) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (2521065) **5.08 Birthday People** (8128572) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (5250274) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (62065) **7.30-8.00 Wild West Country** (2/6) (T) (775) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (555715) **11.40-12.40 Anatomy of Disaster** (910881)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (9997775) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (5250274) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (539) **6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs** (591) **7.30-8.00 Wildlife SOS** (775) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (555715) **11.40 Cyber Cafe** (213510) **12.10am-12.40 Hope and Gloria** (5518621) **5.00-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (95756)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (6592930) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (6513423) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (r) (T) (5250274) **5.58 Anglia Weather** (T) (659794) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (539) **6.30-7.00 About Anglia** (591) **7.30-8.00 Liza's Country** (775) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (193249) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (555715) **11.40 Go Fishing with John Wilson** (1/5) (r) (213510) **12.10am-12.40 Jenny** (5518621)

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (21308591) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47537626) **9.00 Ysgolion** (41546607) **9.20 What the Papers Say** (72057930) **9.30 Eureka!** (89165626) **9.45 Eritrea** (89153881) **10.00 The Number Crew** (71397249) **10.10 TVM** (35310171) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (35306978) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (39623591) **11.00 First Edition** (18677336) **11.15 Stage One** (18667959) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (24486881) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (18118336) **12.30 Sesame Street** (r) (T) (38103510) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (47530713) **1.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (24955626) **1.35 FILM: Do Not Disturb** (T) (92636978) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56890317) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56802152) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (56808336) **5.00 Planed Plant** (32535846) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56899688) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69778978) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95470775) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (56935602) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56809065) **8.00 Y Sioe Golf** (T) (40630210) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (51985107) **9.00 Station X** (2/4) (T) (20328210) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (54687978) **10.35 Mayday** (4/4) (36954268) **11.35 The Real Holiday Show** (7/8) (T) (69375442) **12.05am FILM: On the Buses** (37771282) **1.40 Short Stories** (51387282) **2.10 Diwedd 4.00 Ysgolion:**

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (10336)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (56065)
9.00 Schools:
9.00 Science in Focus (6015775) **9.20** What the Papers Said (7823572) **9.30** Eureka (8877591) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8872046) **10.00** The Number Crew (4310775) **10.10** TVM (9085336) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9097171) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (5469713) **11.00** First Edition IV (6016959) **11.15** Stage One (T) (6022510)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9442)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (27404)
12.30 Bewitched (T) (52688)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (82113171)
1.25 Roots to Success (T) (60814133)
1.50 Apartment for Peggy (1948) Comedy, starring Edmund Gwenn. Directed by George Seaton (T) (61151133)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (997)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (404)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1256572)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (4367930)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (268)
6.00 King of the Hill (r) (T) (881)
6.30 Home Improvement (T) (284539)
6.55 Planet Pop (577882)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (575220)
7.50 Music of the Millennium (T) (171046)
8.00 Brookside (T) (8978)
8.30 Classic Aircraft (6/6) (T) (9323)
9.00 CHOICE Station X Insight into the role of code-breakers working at Bletchley Park in the key air and sea battles fought over and around Britain in 1941 (2/4) (T) (3133)
10.00 Father Ted (r) (T) (28133)
10.30 Bob and Margaret (T) (37881)
11.00 Short Stories (T) (2274)
11.30 Dope Sheet (T) (18317)
12.00am Beyond Dope Sheet Introduction (9249114)
12.05 Crapston Villas (T) (6357398)
12.20 How to Make Love to a Woman (5539602)
12.25 Cowboys: That's Nuthin' (5538973)
12.30 Deadsy (1400350)
12.40 Cowboys: Outrage (5084783)
12.45 The Gorgon (1490973)
12.55 The Man in the Lower Left Hand Corner of the Photograph (1410737)
1.10 Food (3040244)
1.30 Butcher's Hook (9097417)

Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine tussle for supremacy (1.40am)

1.40 Emperor of the North Pole (1973) Two train-hopping hobos jump on to one railroad car too many, and are confronted by a murderous conductor. Starring Lee Marvin. Directed by Robert Aldrich (T) (50300485)
3.50 Sheila (14183447)
4.00 TOPI 2 (549447) **5.40** Place and People (3384466)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News (7435881)
7.00 WideWorld Part three (r) (T) (9530084)
7.30 Milkshake! (4550107)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (9261997)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1601688)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (1600959)
9.00 Weather Front (r) (2207171)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4236626)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6053133)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (2651881)
11.10 Leeza (2548607)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1604775)
12.30 Family Affairs (r) (T); 5 News Update (9470404)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (9539355)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (r); 5 News Update (9479775)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6890775)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap Liverpool Mums, Selling the Family Silver with Eric Knowles, and word game Cryptogram; 5 News Update (4099539)
3.30 Fear on Trial (TVM 1975) An American TV star's career is left in ruins after he falls foul of the anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950s. True-life drama, starring George C Scott. Directed by Lamont Johnson (T) (9166930)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6622959)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (5751084)
6.30 Family Affairs Dave makes a rash promise to Holly (T) (5742336)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (6894591)
7.30 Wild Flight The owls and hawks of northern America (T); 5 News Update (5731220)
8.00 Perfect Babies Mark Easton investigates why couples consider exploiting the latest research to ensure that their babies are healthy, beautiful and intelligent. Scientists claim the mother's diet, lifestyle and relationship with the growing foetus can be potentially rewarding — but just how far will prospective parents go for the perfect baby? Last in series (3/3) (T); 5 News Update (5079688)
9.00 The Rookie (1990) Clint Eastwood stars as an ageing cop who reluctantly teams up with raw recruit Charlie Sheen and sets out to avenge the murder of his former partner, who was killed by criminal mastermind Raul Julia. Action thriller, also starring Sonia Braga, Tom Skerritt and Lara Flynn Boyle. Directed by Clint Eastwood (T); 5 News Update (59629249)
11.20 Two Gus's birthday becomes a nightmare when Booth frames him for another series of murders. Thriller, starring Michael Easton (6962323)
12.15am The Jack Docherty Show With The Cardigans (7902379)
12.55 Live and Dangerous Action from round one of the AMA Supercross (83983602)
3.45 Asian Football Show Weekly round-up (7015669)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (3567756)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8055391)

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● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (83133) 7.30 The Simpsons (46828) 8.00 The Simpsons (73607) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (72978) 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (99355) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (81152) 11.00 Guilty! (86688) 12.00pm Jenny Jones (13713) 1.00 Mad About You (82404) 1.30 Jeopardy (27779) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (79442) 3.00 Jenny Jones (45143) 4.00 Guilty! (21268) 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1161) 6.00 Married — With Children (4423) 6.30 Dream Team (5775) 7.00 The Simpsons (1220) 7.30 The Simpsons (1959) 8.00 Rescue Medics (7268) 8.30 Coppers (6775) 9.00 World's Wildest Police Videos (52626) 10.00 Greece Uncovered (55713) 11.00 Dream Team (22997) 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (54404) 12.30am Highlander (45824) 1.30 Long Play (5500756)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888.
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28) Trial and Error (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) The Wings of the Dove (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 58) The Borrowers (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) One Night Stand (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Widow's Peak (1994) (7886775) 8.00 Lilith (1964) (7881220) 10.00 Point Break (1991) (86308539) 12.05am Le Mepris (1963) (1452843) 2.00 The Man Without a Face (1993) (1482282) 3.55 Vroom (1988) (7656331) 5.25 The Stranger Left No Card (1952) (8438244)

SKY PREMIER

6.00am The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue (1997) (24249) 8.00 Stolen Women (1996) (68335) 10.00 Fly Away Home (1996) (77256) 12.00pm The Directors: The Films of Jim Abrahams and David Zucker (27733) 1.00 Hollywood Buzz (15171) 2.00 One Fine Day (1996) (44607) 4.00 Stolen Women (1996) (3065) 6.00 Fly Away Home (1996) (57171) 8.00 One Fine Day (1996) (36688) 10.00 Gold (1996) (7480268) 12.05am The Juror (1996) (330843) 2.05 The Abyss (1989) (44118447) 4.25 The Directors: The Films of Jim Abrahams and David Zucker (721114)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.40am Amore! (1993) (88204510) 7.15 What a Way to Go! (1964) (11056572) 9.00 An Unexpected Family (1996) (40930) 11.00 Tell Me No Lies (1991) (31084) 1.00pm What a Way to Go! (1964) (51046) 3.00 The Hired Heart (1997) (58220) 5.00 Tell Me No Lies (1991) (82355) 7.00 An Unexpected Family (1996) (98065) 9.00 The Haunted Heart (1994) (37317) 11.00 Anaconda (1997) (92152) 12.30am The Grotesque (1995) (576843) 2.15 In the Bleak Midwinter (1995) (573718) 3.55 Friday the 13th: Part VII: The New Blood (1988) (938282)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Nutty Professor (1963) (8523688) 6.00 Hotel Reserve (1944) (7994201) 8.00 The Lighthorsemen (1988) (7906046) 10.00 100 Years — 100 Movies: In Search Of (8125201) 10.55 The Great White Hope (1970) (72210065) 12.40am None But the Lonely Heart (1944) (5116539) 2.35 Berlin Express (1948) (35180114) 4.00 Joan of Arc: Part One (1994) (5318282)

TNT

9.00pm Blow-Up (1966) (40645510) 11.00 Tick, Tick, Tick (1969) (21847336) 1.00am All the Fine Young Cannibals (1960) (21898060) 3.00 Blow-Up (1966) (29683466) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre 7.15 V-Max 7.45 H2O 8.15 Sports Centre 8.30 Racing News 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style 9.30 You're On Sky Sports! 10.00 Football League Review 11.00 Triathlon 12.00pm Aerobics Oz Style 12.30 Football Special 2.00 Total Sport 2.30 World Windsurfing 3.00 Spanish Football 4.00 H2O 4.30 Total Sport 5.00 Outdoor Quest 6.00 Sports Centre 6.30 Inside Scottish Football 7.30 Fastrax 8.00 Premier Snooker League 10.00 Sports Centre 10.15 You're On Sky Sports! 10.45 Inside Scottish Football 11.45 Sports Centre 12.00am You're On Sky Sports! 12.30 Premier Snooker League 2.30 Fastrax 3.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Live International Cricket 11.00 Table Tennis 12.00pm Outdoor Quest 1.00 V-Max 1.30 International Cricket 4.30 Women's Golf 6.30 Sports Unlimited 7.30 Live Worthington Cup Football 10.00 Women's Golf 12.00am Outdoor Quest 1.00 Worthington Cup Football 2.30 Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Polo 1.00 Fish TV 2.00 Wonderful World of Golf 3.00 A to Z of Motor Sport 3.30 World Motor Sport 6.30 Fish TV 7.00 International Cricket 10.00 Boxing Superbouts 11.00 Olympic Series: Road to Nagano

EUROSPORT

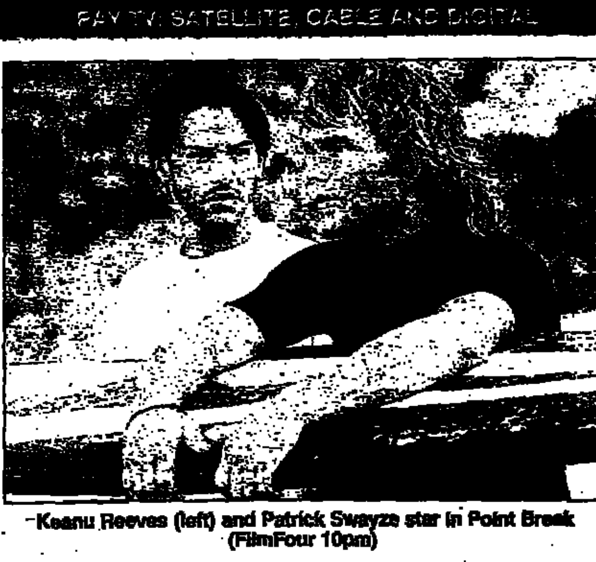
7.30am Rally 9.00 Live Tennis 2.00pm Live Figure Skating 4.00 Tennis 5.30 Live Figure Skating 10.00 Tennis 11.00 Nordic Combined Skiing 12.00am Rally

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The House of Eliott 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Juliet Bravo 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 2point4 Children 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum 8.20 Yes, Minister 9.00 Red Dwarf IV 9.40 Ruby Wax Meets Pamela Anderson 10.15 NYPD Blue 11.20 The Bill 11.50 The Bill 12.20am Backup 1.15 Ivanhoe 2.10 Live at Jongleurs 2.45 Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls 7.00 On the Buses 7.30 Doctor in the House 8.00 That's My Boy 8.30 Up the Garden Path 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale Farm 10.00 thirtysomething 11.00 Hawaii Five-O 12.00pm Classic Coronation Street 12.30 Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Nearest and Dearest 1.30 Agony 2.00 thirtysomething 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Saint 5.00 Hawaii Five-O 6.00 Emmerdale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission: Impossible 8.00 The Love Boat 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 The Comedians 10.00 Jokers Wild 10.30 Hogan's Heroes 11.00 Granada Men and Motors



Keanu Reeves (left) and Patrick Swayze star in Point Break (FilmFour 10pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Gummi Bears 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Dalmatians 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 9.00 The Adventures of Spot 9.05 Animal Shelf 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.55 The Toothbrush Family 10.00 Bite Size 10.10 Tots TV 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00pm The Adventures of Spot 12.05 Animal Shelf 12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bite Size 1.15 Tots TV 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 Quack Pack 2.30 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Dalmatians 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show 7.30 Classic Toons 8.00 FILM: Tower of Terror (1997) 9.30 Home Improvement 10.00 Dinosaurs 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman 12.00am-Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortal Kombat 7.25 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Goosebumps 8.25 Sam and Max 8.35 Spiderman 9.00 X-Men 9.25 Fantastic Four 9.50 The Incredible Hulk 10.15 Casper 10.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 11.00 The Mouse and the Monster 11.05 EekIStravaganza 11.30 Life with Louie 11.55 Home to Rent 12.05pm Sam and Max 12.30 Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.50 Spiderman 2.15 X-Men 2.40 Fantastic Four 3.05 The Incredible Hulk 3.30 Roy and Lisa's Big Ride 3.35 Mortal Kombat 4.00 Spiderman 4.25 Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book 4.50 Home to Rent 5.00 Goosebumps 5.25 Earle Indiana: The Other Dimension 5.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 5.55 Donkey Kong Country 6.25 Sam and Max 6.50 EekIStravaganza

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thornberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Wimzie's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Anima Antics/Family Ness 12.00pm Rugrats 12.30 Blue's Clues 1.00 Bananas in Pyjamas 1.30 Little Bear Stories 2.00 Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Pippi Longstocking 4.00 Hey Arnold! 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sister Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kel 6.00 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 6.30 Driven Crazy 7.00 Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High 7.30 City Guys 8.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class 8.30 Hang Time 9.00 Tempest! 10.00 Hollyoaks 10.30 Echo Point 11.00 Sweet Valley High 11.30 California Dreams 12.00pm The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 12.30 In the House 1.00 Tempest! 2.00 Hollyoaks 2.30 Echo Point 3.00 Ready Or Not 3.30 City Guys 4.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 4.30 In the House 5.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class 5.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 Hang Time 6.30 Rush 6.45 Bangs 7.00 USA High 7.30 Ready Or Not

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team 9.00 L.A.P.D 9.30 Cops 10.00 Extreme Championship Wrestling 10.30 Erotic Series 11.00 FILM: I'm Gonna Git You Sucka (1988) 1.00am Sex Bytes 1.30 Scary Sex 2.00 Extreme Championship Wrestling 2.30 Cops 3.00 FILM: Bloody Birthday (1980) 5.00 L.A.P.D 5.30 Bushido 6.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Roseanne 8.30 News Radio 9.00 Cybill 9.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out 10.00 Frasier 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Seinfeld 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00am David Letterman 1.00 Taxi 1.30 The Critic 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Soap 3.00 Wings 3.30 Nightstand 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 New Alfred Hitchcock 12.00pm The Twilight Zone 12.30 The Twilight Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles 3.00 Buck Rogers 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Trax 7.00 Quantum Leap 8.00 V 9.00 Leo 10.00 FILM: Weird Science (1985) 11.50 Sci-Focus 12.00am Dark Skies 1.00 FILM: House II: The Second Story (1986) 2.40 Sci-Focus 3.00 The Twilight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet 6.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Craftwise 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Painting 9.30 The Great Garden Game 10.00 Bloom 10.30 Cookabout with Greg and Max 11.00 Two's Country — Get Stuck In 11.30 Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 12.00pm Australia's Strangest Home Improvements 12.30 Doing It Up 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Steve and Norm 3.30 Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt 4.30 Walker's World 5.00 Flightline 5.30 History's Turning Points 6.00 Animal Doctor 6.30 Grizzlies of the Canadian Rockies 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.00 The Quest 8.30 Ultimate Thrill Rides 9.00 Tarantulas and Their Venomous Relations 10.00 Buried Alive 11.00 The U-Boat War 12.00am Ballooning Over Everest 1.00 History's Turning Points 1.30 Flightline

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Going Wild with Jeff Corwin 12.30 Wild at Heart: Fur Seals 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer 1.30 Australia Wild 2.00 Breed All About It: Alaskan Malamutes 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Australia Wild 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lassie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World: The Secret Societies of Dolphins and Whales 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Totally Australia: Macquarie Island 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 The Last Paradises: Donana 10.30 Animal Detectives 11.00 All-Bird TV 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00am Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm The Amazing World of Mini Beasts — A Saga of Survival 8.00 March of the Crabs 9.00 Croc People 10.00 King Kosta 11.00 Taking Pictures 12.00am The Fatal Game

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War 5.00 The Tugboats 6.00 The Sacred Waters of Lourdes 7.00 The Big House

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Food for Thought 10.00 The Green Gourmet 10.30 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Surprise Chefs 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 Thoroughly Modern British 2.00 Chez Bruno 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Winter Nosh 3.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 4.00 Rustie's Real Cooks 4.30 Lunch with Ed Baines

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew 6.20 Philbert the Frog 6.30 Johnson and Friends 6.45 Tiny Tales 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Caillou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Diet Show 9.30 The Roseanne Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Animal Rescue 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Babies 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.50 Rolanda 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook 6.15 Jerry Springer 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Murder Call 9.00 FILM: In My Daughter's Name (1992) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under 12.00am Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time 6.00 Aap Ki Farmaish 6.30 Usha Uthap Show 7.00 Faith 7.30 Daily News 8.00 Out and About 8.30 Sailaab 9.00 Himalaya's Hear 10.00 Dhoop Main Saw 11.00 Khana Khazana 11.30 Parampara 12.00pm FILM: Duarmani Jullan Di 3.00 Zee Bangla 3.30 Cine Magic 4.00 Campus 4.30 Zee Top 10 5.30 Aashirwad 6.00 Liberty 1-10 6.30 Humm Tum Rum 7.00 Jee Sahab 7.30 Chalo Cinema 8.00 News Bulletin 8.30 Darar 9.00 Zee Addicts 10.00 Ek Pal ka 10.30 Woh 11.00 Purushkhetra 12.00am News Bulletin 12.30 Pakistan Business Week 1.00 Zee Bangla 1.30 Rashat 2.00 FILM: Mehboob Mera Mastana 4.30 Lolly-Pop

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TENNIS 47
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SPORT

GOLF 50
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A

TUESDAY JANUARY 26 1999

Sri Lanka await ban on Ranatunga

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN ADELAIDE

IT BECAME clear yesterday that Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka cricket captain, who appears on a disciplinary charge today over his behaviour during the limited-overs international against England last Saturday, will be suspended, if Peter van der Merwe, the match referee, uses properly the powers invested in him by the International Cricket Council (ICC). If Ranatunga is suspended, it is possible that Sri Lanka will abandon their involvement in the triangular tournament in Australia and go home.

The transcript of a tape recorded by the stump microphone in that spiteful match reveals that after Ranatunga had instructed Ross Emerson, the umpire who no-balled Muttiah Muralitharan for throwing, to stand close to the stumps, so that he could not observe the bowler's action closely, he then told him: "I'm in charge of this game. You'll stand where I want you to. If you don't stand there, there won't be a game."

Ranatunga was seen clearly at the time, making a mark with his boot, to show Emerson where he wanted him to stand. Earlier, he had led his players towards the dressing-room, after Emerson called Muralitharan for throwing, and was dissuaded from marching them off the field only after heated discussions with both umpires and with Van der Merwe.

Under the code of conduct regulations drawn up by the ICC, Ranatunga would appear to be guilty on five counts: failing to ensure that play was conducted within the spirit of the game; bringing the game into disrepute; showing dissent at an umpire's decision; intimidating an umpire; and using abusive language.

Ranatunga was not the only player to use abusive language. On the tape, Darren Gough is heard telling Mahanama, the batsman who had deliberately run into him to avoid a run-out attempt: "I'll (expletive deleted) kill you." But whereas Gough was using language that fast bowlers have employed down the decades, however offensive it may seem, Ranatunga was trying to take over the game — and succeeding.

Despite the wretched incidents and the damage done to Muralitharan's reputation, Lancashire have reaffirmed that they are looking forward to welcoming the off spinner. Jack Simmons, the club chairman, spoke to Muralitharan on his recent visit to Australia and he said yesterday that he envisaged no problems when the bowler began his county career at Old Trafford after the World Cup.

Muralitharan is, genuinely, the innocent in all this. He has a defective right arm, which, his supporters say, gives the impression of straightening when he bowls the ball. But not everybody is a supporter. It is widely felt within cricketing circles that, however legitimate some balls are, others are plain chucks.

Simmons, an altogether more orthodox off spinner during his playing days, said that he was worried only for the bowler, not on Lancashire's behalf. "He is one of the nicest people I have met and one of the most enthusiastic bowlers. After all this time, in which he has taken 200 Test wickets, it is diabolical that something like this should crop up. This Emerson is playing to the gallery. I don't know him and I don't want to.

"There was no difference between that ball [the one that Emerson called as a throw] and many others he bowled. When you have had clearance from the ICC, from the likes of Michael Holding, who I know to be a fair-minded man, then I think there is something wrong and I don't know what it is."

The International Cricket Council sub-committee dealing with bowlers' actions, on which Holding sits, has not, in fact, cleared Muralitharan. His action has been investigated and it is felt that his "basic action" is acceptable. Nevertheless, umpires, whether they are good, bad or indifferent, are entitled to apply the law as they see fit.

Simmons admits that the unusual action poses some problems. "I must admit, the first time I saw him, I thought: 'My word, that's a bit different.' When I saw it again in slow motion, I realised it was a unique double-jointed action. When we were considering signing him for Lancashire, we were quite happy to go along with that. Our policy has always been that if it is good enough for the ICC, then it is good enough for us.

"Peter van der Merwe will make his report and we will go along with anything this committee comes up with, but I don't expect to hear anything. Muralitharan has been bowling like that for so many years and I think that English umpires, having been former players, understand and recognise it."

The debate in Australia rumbles on and it will not cease until the Sri Lankans depart. There are those who feel that Emerson, who has never stood in a Test, is out of his depth, that he craves a spot in the limelight. Others believe that he is doing the right thing for applying its Laws "without fear or favour".

Ranatunga's shameless behaviour has been roundly condemned, though the captain is far from contrite. If Van der Merwe stands him down from the rest of this series, as he surely must, given the abundance and weight of evidence, it may be the prelude to further storms.

Viduka eager to make his mark at Celtic

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

IF CELTIC have lacked a maverick forward since the departure of the tempestuous pair of Pierre van Hooijdonk and Paolo Di Canio, the vacancy has now been filled with aplomb. Mark Viduka stated yesterday that he is eager to settle down and play. While relieved to find him on the premises, the club will view the Australian as a suitable candidate for electronic tagging.

He signed for Celtic from Croatia Zagreb seven weeks ago, but then revealed that he was suffering from depression and left for his native Melbourne two days later. Should his movement be as unpredictable on the field itself, defenders will never be able to pin him down. As speculation over Viduka's future trundled on, Celtic must have had thoughts of their own about his whereabouts, perhaps wishing that he was with another club entirely.

He is reported to have been offered to West Ham United recently as a replacement for John Hartson. It would show a callous disregard for human suffering to present Viduka only as a troublemaker, but he remains vague about the origins of his distress. The forward, who is of Croatian descent, did appear alienated at Croatia Zagreb and is alleged to have been involved in fights with a journalist and a supporter.

His previous club is an unusual institution. The fans' replica jerseys are not quite replicas because they bear the word Dinamo on the back. That is the original name of Croatia Zagreb and the alteration, never accepted by the crowd, was made to turn them into a vehicle of national identity when playing in European competitions. Viduka's links to Franjo Tudjman, the president of the country, may have contributed to his eventual unpopularity.

Having scored 103 goals in 165 games before this season, Viduka was once highly esteemed at a club he joined as a 19-year-old in 1995. "The situation changed and I was in the firing line," Viduka said. "When I moved to Celtic, I thought that I would be able to take the things that happened to me in Zagreb in my stride, but I needed time to get over them.

"There was a lot of stress and I was in no condition to play. There is no guarantee that it won't happen again, but I am ready to start playing now and to give my heart to the team." Viduka received counselling from Patrick Farrell, an Australian sports psychologist, who also works with Luc Longley, of the Chicago Bulls basketball team.

Sympathy for the forward is withheld because his psychological condition has never appeared to be the only relevant factor. H L Mencken, the great American journalist, once observed that when anyone claims that a dispute is not about money, one can be sure that it is about money. "It had nothing to do with money," Viduka told his new teammates at Celtic. It is an assertion that sits oddly with statements issued by the club.

Fergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, who has fallen silent since, acknowledged last week that complex financial arrangements were involved. It is understood that Viduka had a deal with Croatia Zagreb that would see him receive a percentage of any transfer fee and it appears that he is due at least £1.2 million of the £3 million price agreed with Celtic.

That sum, and the manner in which it was to be paid, seem to have been topics of dispute since Viduka fled Glasgow last month. Even now, Croatia Zagreb are claiming that the entire £3 million should be handed over to them and that any further distribution of cash is their responsibility. Only goals from Viduka can remove the scepticism of Celtic supporters.

In football, whose hall of fame often resembles a rogues' gallery, much is forgiven the successful.

☐ The executive committee of Uefa will discuss the plan for a biennial World Cup when they meet in Cape Town today, only the second such meeting to be held outside Europe.

Viduka seems ready to get down to business at Celtic

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

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Feeling the heat: Anna Kournikova's challenge for the Australian Open comes to an end in a straight-sets defeat by Mary Pierce. Report, page 47

Identity of drug-test athlete kept secret

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH athletics shifted uneasily in the starting blocks of its new beginning yesterday when it decided not to name the athlete who has returned positive first and second samples from a drugs test. It even suggested that it may not disclose the athlete's identity at all.

Though the results of the test have been communicated to the athlete, suspension — and naming — can take place only if an independent panel confirms that a doping offence has been committed. This crucial stage in the doping regulations has yet to be completed and has been held up because the sport is in the transition stage between one governing body to another.

UK Athletics (UKA) is launched today as the new national body, in succession to the collapsed British Athletic Federation (BAF). However, Jayne Pearce, the UKA spokesperson, said yesterday that, although the launch would go ahead as scheduled, the drugs case was delaying full transition. "We were on course," Pearce said. "This slows it up."

The athlete concerned is understood to be high profile but, mindful of how the Diane Modahl drugs case was a considerable factor in the BAF going bankrupt, officials refused to reveal any details that might lead to identification. Pearce declined to say whether it was a man or a woman, whether the drug carried a three-month or two-year ban for a first offence, or even whether it was an in or out-of-competition test.

However, given that it is BAF rules that are being applied in this case, it is clear that the test was conducted in Britain. When Modahl was suspended, before earning reinstatement after clearing her name, it was the result of a test abroad and, therefore, subject to International Amateur Athletic Federation procedures.

It is also apparent that the athlete is disputing the findings. It is thought that the point at issue is not procedural and that it is therefore likely to be specifically in connection with the sample. "According to BAF rules, we can make the name public after the committee has decided that there has been a doping case," Pearce said. "Then we will be in a position to reveal the name." Or not.

It may transpire that the panel rules that an offence has not taken place. "UKA does not have the power to suspend, nor does BAF, until it has been proven there is a doping case," Pearce said.

"If it is a case, we can reveal the name — if it's not, we can't. I cannot say where it was taken or the substance involved. The adverse finding was found when BAF was in existence under BAF rules. UKA is working with BAF and we want to be as open and fair as we can."

Pearce: believes rules must be followed

Pearce could not say when the independent committee, which must rule on whether there is a case to answer, would be formed, though she suggested it would be "in the next few days". It is up to administrators to determine who should appoint the panel, though, presumably, it will ask David Moorcroft, UKA's chief executive, to take charge.

When the BAF was functioning normally, there existed a drug advisory group to meet at short notice. After it went into administration, it continued to apply its drugs regulations, but omitted to nominate a panel for cases such as this. "A committee has to be put together and has to look at all the reports and findings," Pearce said.

Among the names said by their coaches or managers to be in the clear are Darren Campbell, Dwain Chambers, Christian Malcolm, Steve Backley, Mick Hill, Iwan Thomas, Jonathan Edwards and Colin Jackson, but that leaves many more tarnished, perhaps, with suspicion. Pearce disagreed that other athletes would be under a cloud until identity was revealed, arguing that it was essential the rules were followed.

Pearce was speaking at Shoeless Joe's, a London restaurant, where several leading athletes are due today to launch UKA.